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Playground and Recreation

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Recreation for Adults

Community Centers

Games for the Community Center

Community Centers of Washington

By Sibyl Baker

Adult Leisure Time Activities

By Loula Woody

Creative Recreation for Parents

By Elsa Denison Voorhees

Recreation for Adults in One City

The Right Use of Leisure

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Playground and Recreation

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The Centralized Control of Life

Each year sees some new invention having a tendency to standardize American life. We have more chain stores, more chain banks, more national hook-ups on the radio. A page from a San Francisco newspaper is reproduced by radio in Schenectady, New York, within three hours after it comes from the press. We are told that inventions are being perfected which before long will make it possible on a national scale to broadcast pictures which can be shown in all American homes.

Under such conditions the great task confronting education and recreation is the individualization of life, helping men and women to choose their own goals according to their own character and their own personality, so that instead of being lost in a world of many impressions crowding upon them, they shall concentrate upon what meets their special needs, shut out what does not have value for them, and have the courage to develop and to live their own lives.

It is of the utmost importance that recreation in particular shall not be used as a tool for the standardization of American citizens but shall be a means of developing personality, of helping each person to keep his own particular flavor. The leadership to be encouraged is the leadership that makes for spontaneous free action provided such action is not contrary to the public good.

HOWARD BRAUCHER



A HALLOWE'EN PARTY AT A HOUSTON, TEXAS, COMMUNITY CENTER

Playground and Recreation

World at Play

Helping to Meet the Unemployment Situation.—To help out the unemployment situation in Irvington, New Jersey, the Department of Public Recreation suggested to the city officials that \$30,000 be appropriated for the wages of laborers who might be put to work immediately developing playground sites. This suggestion was favorably acted upon.

Horseshoe Pitching in Detroit.—Forty-eight district champions in horseshoe pitching competed early in July for West Side and East Side honors in the semi-finals of the Detroit Horseshoe Pitchers Tournament conducted by the *Detroit News* in cooperation with the Department of Recreation. Hundreds of spectators were on hand to watch the contestants among whom were two Father and Son teams.

For the Pre-School Child.—A group of mothers at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, have found a solution for the problem of the play of very little children in a community which has no nursery school. Six mothers pool their children and their playtime equipment and take turns in providing leadership for a joint playground which sometimes moves from house to house but usually stays on a hospitable corner lot equipped with a cooperatively owned slide, swings, sand boxes and other play apparatus. Each morning from 9 to 12 the children play alone or in groups, as they please, in charge of a mother who keeps in the background as much as possible. The mothers have held a series of evening meetings to discuss books and magazines on child life and to talk over their mutual problems.

At the Mothers' Camp, Westchester County.—Handcraft proved as popular last summer

as playground apparatus to the children at the Westchester County Recreation Commission's camp for mothers. Clay modeling, simple wood-working and drawing held greater attraction for many of the children than the slides and teeter boards. Weaving and basketry were popular among the mothers and for the first time instruction was given in jewelry making.

Camp as Part of the School System.—According to the *Herald Tribune* of August 10th, the inclusion of camp life in the scheme of public education was advocated by Dr. Goodwin Watson, Professor of Education in Teachers College, Columbia University, in an address before 1,000 school administrators and educators.

"Why not," he said, "include in public education several months each year, fall, winter and spring, as well as summer, the free creative activities of an informal and democratically organized camp? There seems to be as much good reason for a board of education to acquire property for, and to run a good public camp for boys, girls and adults, as there is for running a city school building . . . There is clear evidence that happiness depends more upon the kind of at-home-ness in the woods, and acceptability of other people as it develops in camp life, than upon all the literature, art and music of the formal school."

Safety in Camps.—A bulletin recently issued by the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters, New York City, tells of a nationwide study of safety hygiene and sanitation in summer camps. In the camp study to date, the bulletin states, between two and three million swims have been taken by boys and girls and perhaps half a million boat and canoe rides. In this spread of water activity not one boy or girl

has been drowned nor has anyone been nearly enough drowned to require the use of pulmotor or inhalator. In the better managed camps before a child is permitted to swim he is given a careful examination, usually by the family physician before going to camp, and again in camp by the camp health officer. Swimming is not permitted until a sufficient time after meals to guard against danger from cramps. When a child goes in swimming he is given a metal tag with his camp number on it which is placed on a board at the dock so that the staff will know the camper is swimming. Each camper has a partner, a "buddy," who has about the same degree of swimming proficiency as he and these two swimmers stay together throughout the period. At five minute intervals the head life-guard in charge whistles and all buddies are required to be together while they are checked. After the swimming period the swimmers remove their tags. Equal precautions are taken to safeguard boating.

Firemen vs. Policemen.—The second annual Firemen-Police Athletic Festival held in August in Reading, Pennsylvania, was a great success. It was estimated that 2,500 people watched the contest which included dashes, races, a baseball game, a greased pig stunt, tug-of-war, an exhibition of trick riding and similar events. A small admission charge was made and the proceeds were used for the purchase of equipment for the playgrounds maintained by the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation under whose auspices the contest was held.

A Swimming Meet in Westchester County.—On September 6th the Westchester County Athletic Federation held its fifth annual swimming meet at Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers, New York. There were junior events for unregistered boys and girls under sixteen years and senior events for registered A. A. U. swimmers living in Westchester. The meet was divided into two sessions with unregistered events starting at 10:30 A. M. and registered events beginning at 2:30 P. M. The unregistered events included 33 yard swims (free style) for boys and girls under 13; 100 yard swim (free style) for boys and girls under 16; diving events; a 266 yard relay event and a balloon novelty swim for boys. Among the registered events were 100 yard swims (free style) for men and women; 200 yard swim (breast stroke) for men; 100 yard swim (back stroke)

for women; 400 yard swim (free style) for men; 100 yard swim (free style) for boys and girls; diving events for men and women; a 266 yard relay event for men and women and a 66 yard comedy swim for men.

King Neptune Reigns in Albion.—King Neptune presided in all his splendor at the first annual water carnival conducted by the Albion, Michigan, Community Recreation Association early in August. There were 12 events including a number of special events such as diving exhibitions, a life saving demonstration and novelty events. Among the novelty events were a fan race and a horn race for girls, and a washtub race for boys.

Swimming Week in Los Angeles.—From August 18th to 23rd, Swimming Week, sponsored by the Playground and Recreation Department, was celebrated at swimming pools throughout the city. Swimming and diving meets for children, junior diving championships of Los Angeles, and adult meets at all of the 10 municipal swimming pools were included in the week's program, together with nightly exhibitions at one of the plunges. With canoe tilting competitions placed on the level of a recognized amateur sport, much interest was shown in this activity which brought the week to a close. Free instruction was offered boys and girls at all the pools taking part in the week.

Field Meets for Girls.—A series of field meets for girls was held in August on each of the 140 playgrounds conducted by the Recreation Department of Detroit. Contestants were limited to girls who had qualified in the program of athletic events held weekly on the playgrounds during the summer. They were divided into three groups—Group A, girls between the ages of 9 and 12; Group B, 12 to 15 years; and Group C, 15 to 18 years. Special events were scheduled for each group including potato races, 25 and 50 yard dashes, playground ball distance throw, basketball throw, and running and catching.

Playground Ball in Seattle.—More than 5,000 children and adults participated in the fast growing playground ball leagues conducted during the summer by the Playground Division of the Seattle Park Department. The game ranked above volley ball, tennis and similar games as a

popular summer time sport, and the 325 play field teams gave everyone an opportunity to play. The 55 inch boys had several games of their own, while others ranged from the midgets up to adults. The boys' competition was in sectional leagues with the winners in 5 or 6 sections of a league meeting in a play off for the city championship in their particular division. Each of the 27 fields had teams entered in the sectional competition. Seventeen business firms entered teams in the two independent playground ball loops, the fastest in the city. An even greater number of girls took part in the competition although they did not play through long schedules. Senior women's and intermediate tournaments were held on centrally located play lots, while playground ball was the feature of the annual Girls' Fun Frolic as well as the summer play days. Progressive playground ball was featured in one of the play days with more than 1,000 girls between the ages of 5 and 15 taking part.

Reading's 1930 Playground Track Meet.—Mass participation was the object of the annual track and field meet sponsored by the Department of Recreation of Reading, Pennsylvania, for the 22 playgrounds of the city. A child was allowed to enter only one event. The total number of entries under 16 years of age was 890 for 26 events. Events for boys included dashes, relays, high jumps, playground ball throw for accuracy and for distance, potato races and hoop relays. For girls there were dashes, playground and volley ball throw for distance, throw and catch shuttle relays, potato races and straddle ball relays. No individual prizes were awarded but the playground with the greatest number of points was given \$100 worth of playground apparatus. Winners of second place received \$50 worth of apparatus.

A Playground Field Day.—A Playground Field Day held this year at Toledo, Ohio, contained a wide variety of events. There were jackstone, mumble-ty-peg, horseshoe and checker tournaments, Newcomb and water polo championship games, and a liberty bat tournament. One hour of the three devoted to the program was given over to track events for boys and girls.

At the Radio Track Meet.—Honors in the radio track meet held in a number of midwestern cities in August went to the public school play-

grounds of St. Louis which won first place with a total of 40 points. Louisville playgrounds were second, being only half a point behind the leaders, while St. Paul, winner of the 1929 meet, was third with 30½ points. The meet was run off simultaneously in ten cities. As soon as the results were determined in each city they were sent to Chicago where the results were compared and entered. The final outcome was wired back to the contestants and broadcast from local radio stations.

Giving Recognition to Many.—Frank Weeber, in charge of the four playgrounds at River Rouge, Michigan, believes that one way to increase interest in the special events conducted during the summer is to give recognition to as many children as possible. During the eight weeks of the playground season fully 1,200 ribbons were distributed, each one stamped with the name of the event, the date, whether first, second or third place, and the name of the department. The printing of the ribbons was done in the high school print shop. In some instances, instead of giving ribbons for first, second and third places, they were given for first place only and the number of classes was made very large. There were, for example, 54 classes in the doll show and 33 in the pet show.

Events in Yonkers.—Each of the playgrounds in Yonkers, New York, held a play day in August in connection with which a local handcraft exhibit was held. At a block dance conducted in August, 6,000 people were in attendance.

A Progressive Hike.—The suggestion for a progressive summer hike, which comes from a 4-H Club, involves a 3-stop hike with "eats" and recreation at each stop. The hikers meet and hike to Stop 1 where circle and singing games are played and fruit is served. Next they progress to Stop 2 where tag games and races make up the program and sandwiches are served. At Stop 3 cocoa, cookies, or lemonade and cake welcome the hikers and the hike is brought to a close around a big camp fire with singing, stunts and stories.

A Model Playground in La Porte.—In connection with the Civic Auditorium in La Porte, Indiana, a description of which appeared in the July PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION, a playground situated at the south of the auditorium was

opened on July 4th. Ample space has been provided for volley ball and similar games and there is regulation playground equipment in the form of slides, teeters, swings, a giant stride and other apparatus. It is hoped to make this a model playground to which children from all parts of the city will come during the fall months. Leadership will be provided.

On Mark Twain Day.—Friday, August 8th, was Mark Twain Day on the Elmira Playgrounds. Children representing each of the playgrounds went to Woodlawn Cemetery on that day and laid flowers on the grave of Mark Twain. Sketches from his various books were given on the playgrounds.

Forestry in New York State.—By the terms of the Hewitt Act passed in 1929, the State of New York has appropriated \$20,000,000 to be spent in a period of 15 years to purchase, in tracts not less than 500 acres in extent, 1,000,000 or more acres of land not now containing trees and to plant this land with trees so that within a period of from 20 to 40 years there will be 1,000,000 acres of state forests usable for timber purposes and also for recreation. The same act

has authorized the state to make appropriations to counties, not to exceed \$5,000 per county, dollar for dollar for county appropriations, for the purchase of county forests. Up to May 1930 the state had expended \$48,000 of this amount, 20 different counties having matched or exceeded the state appropriation.

According to Professor Joshua Cope of Cornell, the income from hunting and fishing licenses in New York State is now being used to set up game reservations and refuges. In this the Department of the Conservation Commission is cooperating closely with the Council of State Parks and is locating game reservations, parts of which are devoted to game refuges, as near as possible to the camping sites in state parks so that there may be opportunity for people camping in state parks to hunt and fish.

Federal Aid for State Parks.—Federal aid to the States of the Union for the purpose of stimulating the establishment and development of state parks is proposed in a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator McNary of Oregon which is attracting wide interest and support among state park leaders. The bill provides for the establishment of a Federal Aid Park Commission to be composed of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Labor, two members of the Senate to be selected by its President, and two members of the House of Representatives to be selected by the Speaker. This commission is to cooperate with each state through its state park board or other agency responsible for state parks. Annual appropriations of \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year by the federal government are proposed, but the share allotted to each state must be met by the contribution, by appropriation or otherwise, of 50 per cent of the cost of the lands proposed to be acquired for state parks. The development, protection and maintenance of the parks acquired under the provisions of this act shall be the duty of the states.

New Haven Park Commissioners Report Gifts.—The park system of New Haven, Connecticut, according to the report for 1929, was the recipient of a number of gifts from public-spirited citizens. Through a bequest of Professor Theodore S. Woolsey, president of the Commissioners of Public Parks from 1914 to 1928, \$5,000 was left "to be expended by the



ELMIRA'S AERO DART CHAMPION IN ACTION

Department of Parks as it seems best for the beautification of said parks, but not for the purchase of lands." By the will of William W. Farnam, for more than 33 years a permanent member of the commission, \$10,000 was left for the improvement of Farnam Drive. A gift of \$2,000 from Henry F. English, the commission's secretary and treasurer, will make possible a bridle-path in East Rock Park.

A Forest Trail for Hikers.—Plans have been made, according to The Chicago Association of Commerce, for a 50-mile trail through the woods of the forest preserve district surrounding Chicago. Hikers will be able to reach any of the 43 county preserves by rail, electric line or motor on Saturday, and they may tramp until Sunday night without leaving the forest. A broad pathway through the woods will connect the preserves, leading past spots of greatest historical and scientific interest. Replicas of the log cabins used by the first settlers as homes and trading posts will be placed along the way.

The California Beaches Association.—California has a new organization known as the *California Beaches Association* with F. E. Wadsworth, superintendent of the Los Angeles County Recreation Department, as president and J. R. Hunt, manager of the Venice branch of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, as secretary-treasurer. The development of California beaches will be the objective for which this organization will work.

A Tree Memorial.—The American Tree Association, Washington, D. C., has proposed a plan whereby 10,000,000 trees will be planted throughout the United States in honor of George Washington, the trees, no matter where planted, to be the living memorial to Washington on the 200th anniversary of his birth on February 22, 1932. The American Tree Association, 1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, will be glad to send to anyone requesting it a copy of the *George Washington Bicentennial Tree Planting Book*.

A 500-Acre Camp Site for Pasadena.—Pasadena, California, is rejoicing in the acquisition of a 500-acre recreation camp site at Pine Flats in the Angeles Forest. This year \$2,500 will be spent in developing it.

Vacation Accidents.—According to an article published in the *New York Times* in July, baseball playing is the cause of the greatest number of recreation accidents, excluding automobile mishaps. The authority for this statement is the statistical bureau of the Fidelity and Casualty Company which has made an analysis of vacation dangers. Checking 4,400 claims for hurts incurred while indulging in recreation, the bureau discovered that 807 or 18 per cent of the total number were players of baseball, mostly non-professionals. Swimming and bathing came next in seriousness, with 562 cases or nearly 13 per cent, and "wrestling and friendly scuffling" third, with 287 persons involved, or 6.5 per cent.

Crippled Children Attend Playground.—Crippled children in Orange, New Jersey, are transported to the Center Playground in a bus donated by Commissioner Charles Ippolito, Director of the Department of Parks and Public Property. Once on the ground, they join the other children in all of the activities in which they are physically able to take part, and with the diversified program offered there is always something each can do.

Toys for Fire Sufferers.—In addition to the more serious losses incurred in the recent fire in Nashua, New Hampshire, many children lost all their toys and playthings. An appeal has gone out to Junior Red Cross Chapters of New England for contribution for a toy shower for Nashua. The Boston Junior Red Cross, according to the *Red Cross Courier*, has sent funds for the purchase of new playground equipment.

Seattle's Backyard Playground Contest.—Seattle, Washington, has recently conducted a most successful Backyard Playground Contest. The number of entries for this year, 894, was more than twice as great as last year. Many encouraging and interesting facts were discovered in the study, but the judges were quite surprised to find so many yards equipped and used for small children, adolescents and also for adult groups. Judge Austin E. Griffiths, a member of the committee, says "the expanding nature of the backyard playground in a crowded city cannot be over-estimated."

Buffalo's Fourth Annual Backyard Playground Contest.—The Buffalo City Planning

Association has completed its fourth annual Backyard Playground Contest under the slogan "keep your children safe and happy." The contest opened simultaneously with Better Homes Week on April 27th and ended September 6th.

Does Modern Social Work Pay?—Professor Jesse F. Steiner, Professor of Sociology of Tulane University, for two years, according to *The Family*, July, 1930, has been making an exhaustive study of the murder areas and the areas of juvenile delinquency in New Orleans, Louisiana. In the heart of the Irish Channel, for a radius of one-half mile from the present day Kingsley House, there is not one spot for juvenile delinquency and only one spot for murder. For twenty-five years at Kingsley House, Eleanor McMain, beginning with a modest program of clubs and classes and games for the younger boys and girls of that neighborhood, has lived and worked to develop a strong social settlement which now has a \$350,000 plant. Cities change and the relation between cause and effect is never certain, yet such dramatic testimony of the ultimate value of the character building programs of our settlements, our Christian associations, and our Scouts is again substantiated by the fact that in all the records of our Juvenile Court no boy who had ever been a member of the Scouts appears.

Recreation Decreases Crime in Toronto.—The Mayor of Toronto, according to the *Chicago Daily News* of August 7th, speaking of crime in Toronto said: "We have little crime because we are a city of 70 per cent home owners. We start with the children and have the lowest juvenile crime rate in the world. First, we have practically done away with slums. Then we have devoted attention to recreation for improving the children's time. We spend more than \$1,000,000 a year on playgrounds and amusements for the young."

Can Play Help Here?—The Illinois Health Messenger, official bulletin of the State Department of Public Health, states that during the two years ended with 1929 the number of hospital patients in the United States suffering from mental and nervous disorders increased 13 per cent. All other types of hospital patients increased less than 3 per cent. The general population of the country increased from an excess of birth over

deaths by about 2 per cent. Thus it appears that the prevalence of mental and nervous incapacity is increasing at a rate over six times greater than the rate of increase in population from natural sources.

The American Medical Association declares that such facts reveal a problem which is a serious challenge to the government and people of the United States. They point out that if the present rate continues and there is no apparent reason for thinking it will not, we will by 1934 have more than a half million persons in our nervous and mental institutions.

Is this another indication of the necessity for worrying less and playing more?

Jazz Culture.—"Jazz Culture" was declared a problem of the use of leisure by H. S. Person of New York City, at the March meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences. Jazz Culture embodies a jazz consumption, compels a jazz conduct of industry.

Summer Activities in Springfield, Illinois.—The Playground and Recreation Commission of Springfield, Illinois, last summer conducted 22 playgrounds. New handcraft projects proved one of the most popular features of the program. In the annual drama tournament each of 18 playgrounds presented a one-act play, four of which were selected for final competition on Play Day, August 13th, when the playgrounds demonstrated all the various types of activities which they had enjoyed during the summer. Community Night was inaugurated this year and each of the playgrounds was given an opportunity to be host to the public. On these nights handcraft articles made by the children were placed on exhibit and a program of activities was conducted to acquaint the neighborhood with the program. Prominent in the program for adults were industrial tennis, diamond ball, baseball, golf and horseshoe pitching. Two golf tournaments were conducted by the Commission during July.

Tennis Administration in Orange, New Jersey.—A worker is employed on the Orange, New Jersey, playgrounds who devotes his entire time to training classes in tennis and to coaching players. Until four o'clock in the afternoon the grounds are open only to boys and girls for tennis instruction. From four o'clock on the courts are

available at half hour periods for doubles, both for children and for adults.

The Lure of Tennis.—Seventeen new tennis courts have been added this year to the centers maintained by the Detroit Recreation Department and three more will be ready for play next year. According to Harry P. Eikhoff, director of tennis for the department and president of the National Public Parks Tennis Association, by the end of the year approximately 650,000 people will have made use of the 135 courts under the supervision of the department. Mr. Eikhoff has also made the statement that play on the Detroit tennis courts is so heavy almost double the number of courts now available could be used.

A Variety of Uses.—The Department of Parks of the Borough of Brooklyn, New York City, recently completed at Fort Greene Park six concrete tennis courts costing \$15,000. A 10 foot wire mesh fence surrounds the entire area. Markings are permanent, being set in the ground with red cement. Two 2,00 watt floodlights have been erected, one at each end, and 5 streamers containing 250 twenty-five watt colored Mazda lamps are used for additional illumination and decorations. The area is so constructed that it may be flooded for ice skating during the winter months.

During the summer very successful outdoor

dances have been conducted once a week on these courts which have a smooth cement finish. It is possible to accommodate 6,000 dancers. A 15-piece band furnishes music for the dancers.

Green Bay Playgrounds Have Successful Summer.—Green Bay, Wisconsin, is justifiably proud of the program conducted last summer on its four playgrounds maintained by the Board of Park Commissioners. The total attendance for the playgrounds on the basis of a 5-day week was almost 35,000. The program was broad and varied with a pet show, a "funny dress" parade and special events of many kinds. On the athletic side playground baseball proved the most popular sport with girls, although Liberty bat ball, volley ball and similar games ranked high. A "Tom Thumb" golf course made an appeal to many.

Handcraft in Newport News.—The past summer initiated a system of playgrounds with leadership for the children of Newport News, Virginia, and under the leadership of Charles E. Hoster, director of physical education in the public schools, 4 playgrounds for white children and 3 for colored were conducted. A handcraft exhibition in one of the local stores showed a great variety of projects, including a reproduction of a park.



FORT GREENE PARK, BROOKLYN, N. Y.—SIX CONCRETE TENNIS COURTS

The Woolverton Playground.—On August 15th the Playgrounds Association of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, dedicated the Woolverton Playground, established in Hamilton by Mrs. Frances Woolverton, who initiated the playground movement in this city by interesting the local Council of Women in the establishment of playgrounds under leadership. From that organization the nucleus of an association was formed to carry on the work; this association has now entered into its twenty-second year of service.

The San Francisco Report.—The attractive annual report for 1928-1929 recently issued by the San Francisco Playground Commission is a most interesting review of activities and bird's-eye view of the city's recreation program and its development. There are many beautiful illustrations which in themselves tell a vivid story of the work but there are also graphs, diagrams and charts which help to bring home to the reader the splendid development in this phase of the city's life since the Playground Commission was established in 1907.

The Mill Tax.—The Reading *Labor Advocate* for March 1, 1930, states that one mill of tax in Reading will produce approximately \$170,000 in revenue. Divide that sum by the number of dollars you are willing to spend for public recreation and you will know exactly what increase of millage is necessary to support a recreation program.

According to the 1930 Year Book the amount expended by Reading for its public recreation was \$29,300.80 which would mean .17¼ of a mill tax.

A Successful Playground Season.—M. Esthyr Fitzgerald, superintendent of the Utica, New York, Department of Recreation, reports that playground attendance for July broke all records this year with 10,000 more than for the same month in 1929. One evening each week was set aside on every playground for special activities such as block dances, baby shows, pet shows and doll shows. A great variety of articles were shown in the handcraft exhibition. The boys were especially interested in chair caning and coping saw work. Among the articles on display were lamp shades and bases, burlap bags, purses made of rubber tubing, painted vases, soap carving, clay modeling, and tie-and-dye luncheon sets.

In Tacoma.—The Metropolitan Playground and Recreation Department of Tacoma, Washington, has laid out the putting green at Wright Park with 18 miniature greens and fairways. The putting course is open from 10:30 A. M. to 8 P. M. every day except Sunday and Monday. A 10 cent green fee is charged which includes the use of putter and balls. This year the department conducted its second annual "Triple Threat" tournament open to those interested in novelty competition in golf, horseshoes and tennis. Each contestant was required to enter all three activities. First place winner in each event received 6 points, second place 3, third and fourth 1 point. The player with the highest total number of points some of which, it was required, must be made in each sport, was declared Triple Threat Champion.

Lynchburg's Doll Show.—Over 500 dolls competed for honors in the Doll Show held August 23rd on the Lynchburg, Virginia, playgrounds. The oldest doll present was 182 years old; the smallest was less than one-half inch in height and boasted movable arms. The most unique doll had a potato head with corn silk hair and eyes of black peas. A cucumber formed the body, string beans the arms and legs. A lettuce leaf made a "tasty" dress. Fifteen hundred spectators came out to view the show, movies of which were taken.

A Playground "Milk Well."—The Irene Kaufmann Settlement in Pittsburgh has opened a "milk well" where the children who use the settlement playground may buy milk and Graham crackers at cost or less than cost. Sidney Teller, director of the settlement, urges the opening of such milk stations in all the city parks and playgrounds.

Springfield Lake—A New Development.—The citizens of Springfield, Illinois, recently voted favorably on a bond issue of \$2,500,000 for the creation of Springfield Lake which will have an area of 4,260 acres and an average depth of 15½ feet. While the purpose of Springfield Lake is primarily to provide the additional water supply needed by the city, the project will mean greatly increased recreational opportunity. A number of areas will be developed as camp sites, picnic grounds, parks, golf courses and other play centers and there will be opportunity for fishing, hunting, boating and bathing.

Community Centers

The success of the community center depends to a large degree on the careful planning and working out of administrative details. The duties of the various types of workers, the rules enforced, the form of organization used to make it possible for neighborhood groups to participate and to have a share in the management of the center, the activities and programs, are all important considerations about which community center directors and officials are continually looking for further information.

In Houston, Texas

The Houston, Texas, Recreation Department has issued the following suggestions regarding the duties of various staff members responsible for the conduct of community centers.

The Director

The main responsibility for the smooth operation of a center lies with the director. He will find it necessary occasionally to hold short meetings with the special workers, before the center opens, discussing the evening's program, special work, certificates, reports, and problems.

He will be primarily responsible for discipline in the center and will see that outside grounds are patrolled during the evening.

He shall see that activities take place as scheduled, helping special directors in emergency.

He shall act as host to visitors and members and help to make hours spent in the center pleasant for all.

The director will be in charge of all certificates, official score sheets and reports.

A community center leader should know the neighborhood thoroughly and help it formulate its desires and meet its own needs. He should visit in the neighborhood, familiarize himself with its organization, churches, industries, commercial amusements, and its physical make-up.

He shall organize and meet with a center council made up of interested citizens in the neighborhood, and with them determine recreative desires

and needs of the community, and plan means of raising funds to pay for janitor expense and center improvements.

Doorkeeper

The doorkeeper is a reception committee of one who gives the visitors their first impression of the center. He should be friendly and courteous, but dignified, and even stern when the occasion demands. He should learn the names of members and become personally acquainted, shake hands and make people feel at home. He should keep the entrance clear of loafers.

Attendance

The registrar at the door shall keep an alphabetical card file of all center members, registering names, addresses and the classes in which the member is enrolled. Members are to sign in once every night, and an attendance record shall be kept for each member. The registrar shall submit each night to the center director a complete attendance record. In addition to the registrar's report of attendance, each special activity director shall keep a roll book, and at the close of each evening shall turn in to the center director the class attendance.

Social Recreation Leaders

Appoint plenty of hosts and hostesses to look after the guests. Start off the evening with something that is for the groups as a whole so that all lose their self-consciousness. Use games that make people laugh. People who are laughing are ready for almost anything.

Always plan more than you can use, for something may not prove popular and you may want to change sooner than you expected.

Keep everyone in it all the time. If they are not actually taking part in each stunt it should be interesting enough to hold their attention.

Re-group people often.

Alternate active and quiet games. The use of a whistle helps in handling a large crowd.

Always use a number of people to help direct the play on the floor. They should know ahead of time what the program is to be and what they are expected to do.

Center Regulations

Community centers are primarily for adults who no longer have the advantages of school during the day. Members should be at least 14 years of age. If children are admitted a special section and program should be arranged for them.

Members signed up for an activity should stay in that room until the close of the activity period. If not registered in an activity they should be in the game room for informal play. Loitering and running around the halls break down the organization and morale of the center.

Persons wishing to leave the building shall be required to take their wraps and remain away. The registrar and door attendant shall check the going in and out of the building at all times. Loitering about the entrance is never desirable.

Those wishing to smoke are requested to ask the door attendant where this may be done.

No person who has been drinking should be admitted to the building.

Fees may be charged for classes only with the approval of the council. Such fees collected shall be in the hands of the council treasurer.

Suggestions to All Center Workers

Be on Time. Director should be on hand at least fifteen minutes before center is due to open. Doors should never open until director and workers are ready to handle incoming members.

You are host to your group; be courteous, gracious but firm. Remember that you are responsible for organization and discipline.

Recreation workers will refrain from chewing gum, smoking or using tobacco while on duty; recreation work is educational and employees are expected to furnish an example of right conduct and good taste.

Directors and regular special workers will wear the uniform when on duty. Men directors will wear white shirt (or sweat shirt) and trousers, and a Recreation Department emblem.

Special paid workers are responsible to the center directors for the quality of their work in the

Center. The directors are to assist in promoting classes. However, the special worker must feel the responsibility of holding a good average attendance or the class will be discontinued.

Care of Property. Community centers are on school and park properties and are only loaned to the recreation department. It is absolutely essential that we use every precaution to protect this property. This means that rules must be rigidly enforced. Allow no one to enter buildings or rooms other than those designated for community center use and then only when there is an instructor in charge. Do not permit rough handling of furniture. Allow no climbing on buildings or fixtures. Allow ball games only in rooms where windows and lights are properly screened for this purpose.

Be sure everyone is out of the building and off of the grounds before leaving.

Breakage of Property. Directors at the opening of the season will turn in at the office, signed by the janitor, a report of broken windows or damaged property.

A similar report is to be made at the end of the season. If a window is broken or property damaged report to the office in writing at once. If any property is damaged outside of community center hours report it in the same way.

Janitor Service. The janitor is the official caretaker of the property. If you show a desire to be careful of property, and a proper consideration for his duties and responsibilities, much difficulty will be avoided. His cooperation is essential to your success.

Receipts upon payment of the janitor are to be turned into the recreation department office each month to be filed. Therefore, please have your council treasurer take receipt in duplicate if the council desires to hold one.

Equipment and Supplies. Make an inventory of all equipment every month. This should be posted on the inside of the supply closet door for inspection at any time.

Missing parts and additional equipment may be secured at the office when necessary, by signing a requisition slip.

Issue equipment only to special workers and responsible persons. See that it is all checked in at the close of the evening. Never allow equipment lying around that is not in use.

Keys to the equipment room should be only in the hands of workers in charge of the program.

Community Center Hours. Community centers

are open 7-9:30 P.M. for adults over 14 years of age. (Excepting Crockett and Heights Annex Centers, 6:30-9:30 P.M. first hour and half for children.) All directors, including music, dramatics and handcraft, are on duty the full evening, assisting with the general program after closing their classes. All workers upon arriving and leaving are to report to the center director who is responsible for their time record.

Absences. The limited hours in this work will not permit absences. In great emergencies call the office in advance and have a substitute ready. Repeated absence must be considered a resignation.

Salaries. Directors and assistants will receive their checks at the department office—City Auditorium—the first and sixteenth of each month. They should be called for promptly. A substitute will fill out a substitute blank and file it in the office in order to be credited on the payroll.

Monthly Reports. Center directors are to turn in without fail at every staff meeting a monthly report to include:

- Membership attendance (recorded at door)
- Activity attendance
- List of volunteer service
- List of neighborhood council meetings
- List of neighborhood visits
- List of certificates issued

Staff Meetings. Staff meetings will be held the first Monday of each month 7:30 P.M. at the Recreation Club House. You are expected to attend these meetings without fail. Staff meetings for colored workers will be held at 6:15 sharp the first Monday of each month at the Recreation Club House.

Certificates. Certificates will be issued to par-

ticipants as explained in the bulletin on awards.

Certificates are issued to the directors by the force in the outer office.

The director will present to the outer office three copies of her list of certificates bearing the O.K. of the special director responsible for the event. One copy of the list as okayed will be given the center director with the certificates won, one will be returned to the special director, and one filed in the office record. All certificates won are to be awarded not later than the first meeting of the month following.

Sponsors. Each center will have a sponsor who is a member of the Neighborhood Organization Committee of this Department. The sponsor should be called by the center director and invited to special events and asked to award certificates, etc. The sponsor may be of great value in promoting center work in your community and should be advised as to the program, plans, and needs of the center.

Publicity. The community center is an institution for the general public and like any good commodity must be sold to the people. This responsibility rests with every worker and the center director.

Invite people to the center personally; make neighborhood visits.

Send write-ups of your activities in to the department office each week (before Wednesday) for the papers.

Announce all activities in the neighborhood schools, churches and organizations.

Keep the bulletin board attractive, interesting and up-to-date. Stale news is worse than no news and an empty bulletin board is worse than none at all.

A Typical Community Center Night in Houston

Time—1 night per week—7:00-9:00 P.M.

Space—gymnasium, cafeteria, 3 class rooms, music room and auditorium by request.

		Doorkeeper	
7:00 P.M.	Registration	Asst. doorkeeper and outside man	
7:05 - 8:10	PLACE	ACTIVITY	LEADER
	Cafeteria	Folk and tap dancing	(Names appear in this column)
	Gymnasium	Phys. activity for boys	
	Room A	Children's games	
	Room B	Handcraft	
	Room C	Quiet games	
8:10 - 9:05	Music Room	Glee Club-Harmonica	
	Cafeteria	Dramatic Group	
	Gymnasium	Girls phys. activity	
	Rooms A and B	Same as above	
	Room C	Quiet games	

The special program from 9:10-9:30 is a general assembly when announcements are made to all members. Certificates should be awarded by the center director or sponsor during this period, and standing in leagues and tournaments announced. The dramatic worker will be responsible for organization of this program except one night a month, when special directors will take the complete responsibility for this program. The center director will schedule those in charge of programs one month in advance. The dramatic director will notify special directors in advance when using them on programs.

Music Directors' Night—Suggestions for special features

- Vocal solo, duet, quartet or chorus
- Reading with music
- Piano or instrumental solo, or group
- Whistler, harmonica solo, trio or quartet
- Community singing

Boys' Worker Night

- Boxing or wrestling demonstration
- Comedy drill by gym class
- Tumbling exhibition
- Follow leader exercises for whole group
- Mass games

Girls' Worker Night

- Drill by women's gym class
- Tumbling exhibition
- Girls' cheering squad
- Folk or tap dance
- Follow leader exercise for whole group
- Mass games

Dramatic Workers Night

- Storytelling
- Pantomime
- Stunt—Men's gym class
- Reading
- Stunt contest between clubs in center, each stunt not over five minutes in length

Home Talent Night—Director in charge

- Home talent magician
- Solo dancers
- Dialogues, etc.
- Toy symphony orchestra

Occasionally outside speakers will be scheduled for this period. Inter-center matches in game tournaments and physical efficiency tests will be featured at the community centers in turn. These matches should be made a part of the special program. Occasionally this period should be given

over entirely to social recreation, games and stunts.

Community Night. Once every two months the entire community staff devotes its energies to putting on a community night which is advertised in the community. The program is held on regular community center nights beginning at eight o'clock and lasting until 10:30. Interesting outside speakers, moving pictures, local talent plays and musical numbers constitute the program. If funds are needed a small charge is made.

Game Tournaments. The Houston community centers during November, December, January, February, March and April, conduct a regular schedule of game tournaments in each center, competing at the end of the season in a final tournament. Tournaments are held in ping pong, checkers, disco, dominoes, boxing, quoits, carroms, tumbling and wrestling, broad jump and chinning, speed shoot and target throw. Centers score as follows: First place, 50 points; second, 30 points; third, 10 points; center participation, 5 points. Scores for individuals are on the same basis. Loving cups are awarded to the center and to the individual with the largest number of contest points at the inter-center closing party held in April.

Community Centers in Cincinnati

The Public Recreation Commission of Cincinnati last winter conducted six community centers in school buildings. The organization of the centers is described as follows in the 1929 report of the Commission:

Each community center is governed by a board of directors composed of residents of the community, and elected by popular vote. In most instances, the degree of success of any community center is in direct proportion to the amount of time and effort expended by this volunteer board of directors. This is not always true, however, due to neighborhood conditions beyond their control. Sands, for instance, for ten years one of the outstanding community centers of the city, was closed this year, due to the constantly changing population in the west end of the city, which makes it impossible to conduct continuous activities. This, in spite of the fact that the board of directors gave unsparingly of their time and efforts to keep the center alive.

To the officers and Board of Directors of the

community centers of Cincinnati is due great credit for their unselfish and untiring efforts. The members of the boards of directors are in many instances the leaders in the community to whom the residents look for advice and guidance. These boards of directors have accepted the responsibility of providing wholesome, recreational opportunities for all the people in their neighborhood. The Recreation Commission is committed to the policy of giving whole-hearted, moral support to those volunteer groups conducting the community centers and assisting financially as far as possible.

Two new community centers, Sayler Park and Linwood, were organized in 1929. Both neighborhoods are fortunate in having a new school building with modern facilities, a factor which contributes greatly to the success of the activities conducted. In each of these two centers men and women's gym and dramatic classes are conducted, in addition to bi-weekly social dances which are attended by all age groups over sixteen. Sayler Park has a children's orchestra of twenty pieces, a children's folk dancing class and a Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop. At Linwood we have organized a six-team basketball league for boys over sixteen.

The plan in operation of the community centers in this city is as follows: The Board of Education provides the building and the light and heat without charge except on Saturdays and Sundays. The Recreation Commission employs an executive secretary in each community center whose duty it is to encourage and assist the volunteer board of directors, to stimulate interest in the activities conducted by the community center, to prepare all reports required, and to assist in the general administration of the community centers.

In order to stimulate interest in cultural pursuits on the part of young people, the Recreation Commission has agreed to provide an instructor in dramatics and music in community centers where the participation warrants. All of the community centers have dramatic classes and three have orchestras. Two new orchestras, in addition to those of the community centers, have been organized this year, one with headquarters at the Bloom School, and the other at the Oakley School. The Recreation Commission pays the salary of the directors, while the individual groups provide the necessary music.

The community center season extends from October first to April first. Most of the centers are

open three nights a week, from 7:30 until 9:30, except on the night on which the social dances are conducted, when the building is open from 7:30 until 10:45.

Activities include, men's gym, women's gym, social dancing, orchestra, dramatic groups, neighborhood entertainments, folk dancing, manual training, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, handcraft, ball room dancing classes, boys' basketball, etc.

The Duties of the Community Center Council

The constitution by which most of the Cleveland community centers are operated states, "The Council shall help the school authorities and the staff in the promotion and furtherance of the program to attain the purposes of the center."

"In accordance with this general statement of duties," states a bulletin issued by the Division of Community Centers, "the director of the center and the chairman of the council should cooperate in the following matters:

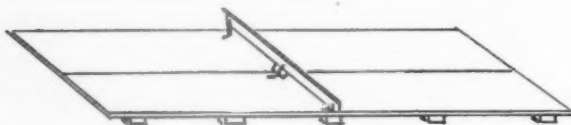
- a. See that the provisions of this constitution are carried out for the annual election of the Council.
- b. See that regular monthly meetings of the Council are held.
- c. See that the Council is advised of the 'furtherance of this program.'
- d. See that as much responsibility as possible is placed on the Council Members. A dummy board of directors is fine only on paper.
- e. Some suggestions on responsibility distribution:
 1. Council committees for special programs.
 2. Council committees for new classes.
 3. Council committees on publicity.
 4. Council advice on future expansion.
 5. Council reaction to directors' monthly report.
 6. Council presence in managing special events.
 7. Council representation at recreation nights.
 8. Council planning for fifth annual frolic.
 9. Council visits to other centers.
 10. Council distribution of the red guest tickets.
 11. Council help in keeping up a good rating for the Center.
 12. Council encouragement to discuss the progress of the Center."

Games for the Community Center

Making the Ping Pong Table

W. J. Sandford, Jr., Superintendent of Recreation, Community Recreation Association, Dalton, Massachusetts, has sent the following suggestions for constructing a ping pong table that can be moved and stored easily and is solid enough to serve for championship matches. The suggestions are based on Mr. Sandford's experience in constructing a table for the Dalton Community House.

The table is made of $2\frac{1}{2}$ " grooved boards one inch thick and is five feet wide by nine feet long. The top of the table is screwed to five $2"$ x $4"$ pieces which extend across the table as shown in the illustration. The cracks are stuffed with plastic wood and painted, making a perfectly smooth surface for the top of the table. The table is painted



green while the lines around the edges and down the middle to mark the playing space are white.

The feature of the table is the net made out of $\frac{1}{2}"$ board, six inches high and with a 2 inch cut-out between the middle and the ends allowing the ball to pass under. Little iron brackets are used to brace the board used as a net. The brackets are braced against the net and the table with small screws. The cut-out on the bottom of the board begins three inches from the ends and allows four inches between cut-outs in the middle. The net board is painted Chinese red.

The table rests on horses each $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet high



and slightly less than five feet wide. These are painted battleship gray to make them inconspicuous. Three horses are used, one under the middle and the other two at a reasonable distance from the end. Enough space should be allowed so that the players' feet will not touch them during play.

The cost of the lumber for the table and horses was about \$12.

In the Quiet Game Room

A new game for the quiet room at the social center is *Camelot* issued by Parker Brothers, Inc., Flatiron Building, New York City, which is played on a board on which the opposing forces, *Knights* and *Men*, meet like small, medieval armies with the freedom of action to advance, retreat, go sideways or diagonally and give battle in any direction. The enemy flanks are turned or destroyed, the center barracks are thrown into confusion and the goal finally made open to seizure. Unlike most games the contesting forces are arranged in the center of the field and far behind each are the fortresses which they respectively defend with troops consisting of *Knights* and *Men* whose basic characteristics in play symbolize actual hand to hand conflict.



HIS PETS

The Community Centers of Washington

SIBYL BAKER

Director, Community Center Department, Public Schools of the District of Washington

Fluffy yellow chickens cherishing their paper feathers, golden butterflies equally solicitous of painted wings, monkeys full of antics, gypsies, clowns, numberless flowers, even a beetle or two, hurried gleefully into Central Community Center last May, a part of the more-than-six-hundred children participating in the fifth annual Children's Festival of the Community Centers of the District of Columbia. Some 3,000 spectators attended this program which demonstrated some of the opportunities that the Community Centers offer the children of the city. Two dance-playlets, *Mary's Garden Romance* and *The Princess Outwits Her Prime Minister*, were received with appreciation by the audience. *A Holiday in Russia*, *Southern Memories*, and *The Circus* were colorful bits. Music received its emphasis in the demonstration of piano instruction to community groups and in the selections of the violin ensemble and of the Boy Scout Drum and Bugle Corps. Members of the District of Columbia Model Aircraft League flew their planes and there was a handwork exhibit of one of the centers on display.

Varied Activities

The Community Center Department of Washington sponsors a multiplicity of activities. Of the fine arts, classes in drama are held both for children and adults; dancing may be pursued as rhythmic—which often includes the fundamentals of ballet, character, national, and even acrobatic dancing—tap, or social dancing, that near-essential for normal adolescent development; music may be followed in its violin, piano, choral, or orchestral forms. From china-painting, French conversation and bridge for the would-be sophisticate, one may turn to the more practical fields of automobile study, shorthand, toy-making, shoe-repairing and carpentry, or to such sports as swimming, basketball, soccer, games, and drill.

The funds involved in the maintenance of Community Centers for the year 1929-1930 are as follows:

Expended for public appropriation..\$42,000.00
Income from activities 43,864.09

The number served during the same year were:

	Children	Youths	Adults	Total
Attendance in community centers	90,407	98,976	255,489	444,872
Attendance in community activities outside centers	9,723	3,401	144,733	157,857

The Model Aircraft League

To be a member of the District of Columbia Model Aircraft League, which is under the direction of the Community Center Department, a youth must build a plane, kite or glider which will fly, or else must construct a non-flying true scale model plane acceptable to judges. The work is delicate, laborious, and demands a degree of technical skill. The DCMAL gives instruction and tests in thirteen different types of planes, including gliders and helicopters.

City contests are held fortnightly, this year culminating in a four-day tournament in August, in time to report the best records to the National Committee of the Fourth National Playground Miniature Aircraft Tournament. Records held by members of the DCMAL are a source of pride to the organization. In outdoor flight the hand-launched scientific record is: duration—18 minutes, 40 seconds.

A monthly bulletin, *Plane Talk*, carries to members current news, reports of contests, notes on methods, and affairs of the organization. It is most stimulating to observe the eagerness with which the boys await each issue. A few days' delay in putting *Plane Talk* into the mail is sufficient to cause a number of visits to the Community Center office, with solicitous inquiries and proffers of assistance.

The Community Institute

The Community Institute brings to Washington a series of outstanding events and personalities as widely diversified as that of Hugh Walpole of literary fame and the Ruth St. Denis-Ted Shawn Dance group. From November to March, inclusive, the wise subscriber to Community Institute can enjoy two events each month for the very low price of 30 cents each. Thus the Institute, under the direction of the Community Center Department, offers an opportunity to Washingtonians to be entertained, stimulated, informed and amused in a fashion that no commercial enterprise could attempt. Entertainers for the coming year include the Kedroff Quartet, whose control of the realm of song is rarely equalled; Oliver La Farge, winner of the 1929 Pulitzer Prize for the novel best describing "the whole atmosphere of American life"; Harvey Wiley Corbett, who has achieved a new and individual manner in architecture; Will Irwin, journalist and writer, and others of equal note.

The Community Drama Guild Enters Its Third Year

That adult Washington may also have its opportunity for originality and self-expression, for "play-making," for exercising that pleasurable and selective taste that develops in the glamorous and delightful world of the theatre, the Community Drama Guild of Washington, under the direction of the Community Center Department, is about to enter its third year. This organization also is non-commercial. Actors, stage-crew, prompters, make-up artists and all participants are chosen from the membership of the Guild. It is the focal-point for many amateur dramatic groups of the city, each year sponsoring a one-act play tournament which provides the smaller groups both the opportunity of presenting their players, and the stimulus of competition with others equally concerned with drama. In the past year eighteen play groups availed themselves of this privilege. Awards were made to the best company or group, to the best individual actor, and to the actor employing most clear and accurate diction. Knowing that a creditable performance in the play tournament frequently leads to an invitation to appear in Guild productions, actors and companies make every effort to deserve the spot-light that so often finds them.

The Guild has conducted a one-act play-writing

contest open to Washington authors. In its first contest forty-three plays were submitted and the winning play, *The White Dress*, by Miss Ruth Welty, was given a reading presentation during the Drama Conference of the Guild, the first week of April.

Four plays were presented in the season 1929-30: *The Torchbearers*, an entertaining comedy; *The Honeymoon*, witty and delightful eighteenth century revival; *Gas*, harsh, modernistic experimental, and finally *The Tempest*, which in its production was uniquely of this city. Out-of-doors, in the Sylvan Theatre near the Washington Monument, having the orchestra of the Marine Band to interpret Sullivan's musical setting, with the actors inspired by the depth of the sky and the transparency of the leaves of the trees under flood lights, and, no doubt, also, by their audience, which reached into many thousands, this performance closed the Guild season most auspiciously and triumphantly.

The Objective

At the present time there are 24 community centers in 27 public school buildings being operated by the Community Center Department. Through all center activities one sees a particular aim or effort. There is always the wish to make possible for the group, through neighborhood life—that miniature world, often the largest world that many know—an existence which is the expression of ideals and aspirations. As the community displays a need and desire which conforms with this aim of the Community Center Department, it is assisted, if possible, to its fulfilment. Music and drama, dancing and play, social contacts, and directed sports are here available. More and more are the people of Washington awakening to this aim and giving loyal cooperation to its realization.

"Hobbies may be made to contribute to the world's advancement as well as giving the truest expression to the individual.

"Time and thought should be put on the problem of how to list the number of individuals who die mentally and spiritually just at the time of their lives when they should be most productive. The world is going to be made richer to the extent that middle life and old age are made a fit climax to youth."—L. R. Alderman.

Adult Leisure Time Activities *

LOULA WOODY

Department of Recreation, Newark, New Jersey

In discussing adult recreation, haven't you often had recreation leaders ask "How do you persuade adults to join art classes—ours want only a reducing class." Or, "What activities should I have at a community center?" And another may ask for a program of adult leisure time activities which will be so applicable that it will solve the whole problem of adult recreation. You, who have worked with adults in planning their activities, know that there is no such program. Any cut and dried program would defeat the very purposes for which recreation departments exist. It is well said that "the chief value of recreation is not in any uncertain future to which it might lead, but in its present power of giving satisfaction," and this can be obtained only by meeting the present interests and needs of our adult groups by providing them with the most vitally interesting activities.

Giving Them What They Want

Our program must be very flexible and pliable. It should be of such flexibility that adults may ask for what they want and get it—and get only what they ask for—not what a leader thinks they ought to have along with it! Adults feel they know what they want and do not readily accept substitutes imposed upon them as something just as good—or something necessary to go along with what they've asked for. Many leaders have failed in adult activities because they have not realized this fact. They have probably marked out a well balanced program, but have neglected to take into consideration adult psychology of learning and the group's vital interests. For example, suppose a leader is faced with a group of women who have come to her class because they have a vague impression that it is a "sewing class" of some sort! If she is inexperienced in adult activities, she may outline a very good program in the technique of sewing, including making buttonholes and French seams and cutting by patterns. But she will lose

half or more of her class by the next lesson! If, on the other hand, she forms a discussion group and discovers that one woman wants to make a quilted pillow top, another silk lamp shades, and others wool pictures, she can tactfully turn the group into a handicraft class, meet and keep the interest of all her groups, and subtly direct the program into wider channels of activities.

Care must be taken to use suggestions from the groups which point toward more varied interests, then let one activity grow out of another. This is best done by having short term projects from six to eight weeks. Miss F. Cowin in her book *Program and Organization* says that "fairly short-term projects in which the interest remains strong enough to make a successful outcome constantly worth striving for, are as a rule more apt to yield intense satisfaction when the climax is reached. It is difficult but important to have the group place its goal high enough so that careless, shallow effort will not be habitual and yet near enough at hand to be within the reach of its efforts. If a pageant for instance, must be too finished a performance, it will become a burden and attitudes of positive dislike for such activity may be established."

We cannot remain indifferent to our environment. We are either pleased or distressed by the activities which surround us. I read not long ago that psychologists who have been analyzing the sources of happiness and of distress in our lives, have reached the conclusion that "one's well-being is determined in an important degree by the aesthetic character of the things upon which he looks and in which he participates." The general objectives toward which we are directing our adult activities are physical welfare, social adjustment and aesthetic appreciation and creativeness.

The Arts—a New Development in Recreation

The physical activities have a more fixed place in adult's leisure time than the arts. For years adults have been swimming, riding, hiking, play-

*Extracts from paper given at District Representatives Conference, Elizabeth, New Jersey, April 4, 1930.

ing tennis, handball, golf, etc., but only recently have the greater arts of music, poetry, sculpture, painting and the subsidiary arts of dancing and drama been given their places in well balanced recreation programs.

The arts are not for a select few. An appreciation of music does not mean an expensive seat at a concert, any more than a true feeling for drama means attending all of New York's yearly productions. In some way we must bring the arts into our everyday life.

"Art is essentially social" writes the *Kit*, "because it originates in the need of the artist to share his experience. But it is also social for those whom he reaches. Who has not felt a deep need for sharing the beauty of a sunset which he was forced to see alone, and realized how that sharing would enhance its beauty? View it how we will, from the standpoint of the artist or his audience, art has within it the very essence of play and recreation." Bailey in *How to Study a Picture* adds "In aesthetic enjoyment we have a value which adds immeasurably to the richness of life. Music, poetry, drama, literature, painting and sculpture are a refuge for the soul wearied with the daily cares of business or professional duties."

Art in the Community Center Program

We are faced with the problem of how to enlarge our community center programs to include the arts without bringing them in by the nape of the neck. In the first place we must start where people are. It is not where they start—but the direction in which they go—that really matters. And this brings in the all-important question of leadership. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the importance of adult leadership. A leader must have personality, initiative, training, background, tact and everything that goes into making a worker valuable to recreation, plus a deep sympathy and understanding of adults and the community in which he works. Such a leader can take a community center group, and meeting them at their own level of interest, give them such activities as simple games, folk dances, handicraft and community singing, and slowly build and enlarge their interests until where they began with perhaps three activities they may have a dozen at the end of the season, with a folk dancing exhibition, several plays, and a picture exhibition to their credit during the year.

Interests differ as widely as the personalities of the adults themselves. What may be recreation for one may be hard work for another, but almost any recreational activity you could mention has its place in the leisure time of some adult. The important thing for us to remember is that some people derive as much satisfaction and relaxation from the arts as others get from physical activities.

Shall we look at one of the arts in a community center? Anything might happen to an activity such as drama, depending on the leader in charge of it, but there are certain fundamental principles that should be observed if true community drama is to be developed. The day of producing a minstrel show or revue every time there is interest in "putting on a show" is a thing of the past, or at least should be. Too much good drama is at hand for us even to bother with worthless material. There are plays of every type for every age—long plays, short plays, musical plays and pantomime. The director must size up his group carefully as to their probable abilities, backgrounds, likes or dislikes, and then select a play that really appeals to him, and he will find that it is probably what his public wants. The play is the thing—everything else is secondary to it. Why? Because it is the play that creates deep and lasting impressions. It enables us to widen our experiences through entering sympathetically into the lives of the characters portrayed. It gives true creative recreation to the participants who in turn share their experiences with the audience. The interesting part of drama as a recreation project is its unusual scope of interests. Not only do we have actors, but there are also various committees needed to take care of costuming, scenery, lighting and stage property. Any one of these can under the right leadership be made a vastly satisfying activity in which to participate, and may lead to new fields of interest in other arts.

John Masefield, poet laureate of England, in a recent interview said: "I believe that in order to practice any art with success it is necessary to work hard and often."

Creative Recreation for Parents*

ELSA DENISON VOORHEES

This is the story of an educational experiment made by parents on parents, using a progressive school plant and staff. It indicates a possible development to secure closer affiliation between home and school, and shows, perhaps, a new opportunity for the progressive school to lead again, this time in the field of adult education.

For many years mothers and fathers interested in the "new" schools have read, talked and been talked to a great deal about modern theories of education. At the Lincoln School in New York, mothers and fathers now have the opportunity to try on themselves some of these theories while they are making use of the school for their own growth and satisfaction, developing for themselves new avocations (hobbies), or taking up discarded interests again under congenial surroundings and with skilled assistance.

We hear a great deal about adult education these days, about lecture courses and discussion groups. The experiment at the Lincoln School merely carries over into this field of adult education the opportunities for creative work which we have for many years accepted as the birthright of our children. Without permitting any arbitrary standard of vocational or commercial excellence, the school has offered an educational and recreational atmosphere which liberates adults from self-consciousness and encourages them to react naturally again to the pleasure inherent in trying themselves out through many kinds of activities. At the same time, while primarily thinking about themselves and their fun through the use of the school in their leisure time, parents have come much closer than ever before to the "inside workings" of the school and to the experiences their children are having there.

For here, at last, parents are definitely part of the school as people, not merely as patrons or as the children's fathers and mothers. The "old" school shut its front door with the children inside and the parents outside. The "new" school has tried to lure parents over the threshold for study groups, classroom visits, demonstrations of the children's work, for lectures and parent-teacher sociability. Progressive schools have been saying

to parents that the home and school must work together, that the parent is important to the school because he is part of the child's world and that he must know what the school is trying to do. But all this time the parent has remained merely a parent and has ceased to be important when the child's connection with the school ceased. The school's interest in him did not usually stretch to the point of caring about him as a person, as an individual with a valuable growing life apart from his child's life. The Lincoln School has, therefore, merely carried one step further the logical development of the "new" schools. It has welcomed the parent as a human being and offered to him for his own use its riches and experience. The child's problems are for the time being forgotten; it is the mother and father who take the center of the stage.

The plan for the experiment was suggested in the fall of 1928 to the director of the school and to the board of the Parent Teacher Association. It met with immediate encouragement. The director offered to supply executive help, stationery, clerical assistance, the overhead expenses of janitor, elevator, heat and light. A circular was sent to the Parent Teacher Association members asking them to make choices among twenty alternatives in physical recreation, arts and crafts. The replies were illuminating. Every activity suggested had a group of devotees. Some parents wished to do as many as ten different things.

On the basis of these returns a selection was made of the nine most popular activities which could be carried on during one evening a week with the available staff and equipment. This list of opportunities was sent, with cost, hours and name of instructor, to the Parent Teacher Association membership and later to parents of the Horace Mann School. For those promoting this experiment, it was a gamble all the way. On the opening night, we had no idea how many would arrive, nothing more secure than faith that the teachers would be able to do for adults what they had done so successfully for children, and no plans at all as to what the groups of parents would actually accomplish. The program for each activity had been purposely left unformed so that we might find out what those selecting it had in

*From *Progressive Education*, December, 1929, through the courtesy of the Progressive Education Association, Washington, D. C.

mind. For example, the music group had the choice of group singing with instruments, creative music, the fundamentals of harmony and ear-training and music appreciation. The drama group included among others at the start one man who wanted to do nothing but paint scenery, two who wanted to write plays, one who wished to read and discuss contemporary productions.

Gradually these varying interests adjusted to compromise programs based on the majority's wishes. Several people dropped out entirely when they found their special interest neglected; others transferred to second choice activities. Two of the groups did not have enough members to pay the expense of instruction, but were not discontinued. Eight men and women interested in photography met for five evenings and then decided there was nothing more they could do.

The school plant was open on twelve Tuesday evenings to house these activities which took place in the two gymnasiums, the swimming pool, art room, pottery room, shop, assembly hall and music room. As the plant was very large, the groups were scattered, but within each room was an atmosphere of happy concentration. Especially true was this of the basement room where the potter's wheels were turning fast and twenty people in clay-stained smocks were absorbed in what their hands were creating. Only a few of these people had ever touched clay before.

The high spot of each evening was the social swimming period at nine-thirty when many left the shops and studios and gathered for a half hour of water sports. A mixed team playing girls' rules in water polo usually drove the others out at the end of the period and then everyone assembled for hot chocolate and crackers served on the edge of the pool.

Most of the teachers who cooperated in this experiment were from the Lincoln School staff. The others were chosen because they had taught adults with progressive methods. The idea underlying all teaching was, of course, to let each person begin where he was and follow an active interest. Ninety per cent of those working in painting, pottery and industrial arts had never ventured before into those fields. One member of the art class, the mother of three boys, had never held a paint brush in her hand! As soon as possible, the minimum skills necessary for a sense of satisfaction were developed by the teachers. It was interesting to see how quickly this was accomplished in many instances. Individuals worked entirely by

themselves with the instructor available for help when requested. Occasionally the instructor gave informal talks on points of common difficulty.

The measure of success of the first year's experiment was first of all the general enthusiasm of those participating in it. Parents really had a good time and felt that they had made progress. The attendance averaged sixty—a little over fifty per cent of the enrollment—in the face of many difficulties, a late start, much sickness among families, the competing attractions of a large city. In the spring an exhibition of results was arranged in one of the show-cases in the school corridor. Here were vases, small figures, bowls, and brackets modelled in clay, glazed and fired; water colors, wood-cuts, book-racks, and the shop plans for a corner bookcase which one father was installing in his library as "home work." For the music group, a list of the songs sung and the musical literature listened to and discussed during the term might have been displayed. The drama group brought the season to a brilliant close by presenting to the entire Parent Teacher Association two one-act plays which had been coached by one mother, costumed by another and staged with the help of several fathers as electricians and property men.

Plans for the second season were matured at a dinner meeting given by the school in the spring to a committee of parents representing each group. There was much discussion of name, fees and choice of activities.

It was decided to try again the groups which had been formed the first year and to add a group in cooking, one in French conversation, another in beginning German and an experimenting group in the physical sciences. The latter was suggested because so many parents are called upon to cooperate at home in airplane construction, the manipulation of electric trains, chemcraft and radio problems. Through their practical home difficulties, those electing this course will be re-introduced to laboratories, and will have an opportunity to watch demonstrations by the instructor dealing with recent discoveries in the scientific world, and will at the same time become more helpful as assistants to budding genius in the home.

As for the cost of the experiment, it is hoped that the enrollments will be sufficiently large to offset the total expense this second year. Parents of the Horace Mann School, the Institute of Child Development, and members of the staffs of

Teachers College are free to enroll, as well as alumni of the Lincoln School. A twenty per cent discount has been allowed for two members of the same family enrolling in one or more groups. No activity with a registration of less than ten persons will be continued this winter. The term is to be eighteen weeks, excluding school vacations.

The name "Parents Recreation Club at the Lincoln School" was finally selected as best representing the purpose and atmosphere of the venture. For recreation, *fun*, is the one essential ingredient in such an undertaking. We know that our children enjoy and profit by creative and liberating experiences in school. How can the same experience be supplied to adults, released in their leisure time to re-discover some of the thrill and feeling of potentiality which they relinquished when they concentrated on the serious vocational business of their lives?

This experiment in active education for adults, in the enriching of their experience and backgrounds through play, has led me to the logical assumption that progressive educators may well assume leadership in educating for the wiser use of our increasing leisure. What the "new" schools have done and are still doing for elementary and secondary education, they may well undertake for adult education. The active, creative leisure-time possibilities, more satisfactory emotionally, perhaps, than are lecture courses, are not yet much talked about among those interested in adults, who seem generally to be following the old paths of academic, passive, absorbent education. Individual teachers working with modern methods and intelligent adults have, of course, often achieved extraordinary results. But they frequently have had to overcome in their grown-up pupils much diffidence, inertia and the imposition of a standard of what "should" be accomplished to maintain adult superiority, or to achieve the excellence expected from adults. The Parents Recreation Club at the Lincoln School has indicated that by admitting adults as persons to the liberating atmosphere of a progressive school plant, confidence is re-established and interest directed to the point of doing creditable work often in entirely new fields, and of having an extremely good time while doing it.

No one can predict what the second winter of this experiment will bring forth; but one result is assured—that those parents who have enjoyed the school for their own recreation will have a feeling about the plant and the staff and about

other parents which will heighten their loyalty to, and enlarge their understanding of, the school. At the same time these parents will be developing valuable bonds of mutual interest with their children by sharing similar experiences under the same roof.

The two years' experiment outlined here could not have taken place without the unfailing support and encouragement of the school's director and staff. To their open-mindedness the parents of the Lincoln School owe the opportunity they are now enjoying. Because we are very proud of our school's willingness to let us play there, we are glad to pass on the story and to offer our experience to other groups of parents. A small "prospectus" of the plans for the second year is available on application to the school.

Legislation for Adult Education *

One of the important features of educational legislation in recent years consists in providing means for adult education, according to the Office of Education, Department of the Interior.

The first enactments after the war for this purpose were prompted and characterized by a feeling of necessity for educating adult immigrants in the principles and ideals of our democracy and in the use of the English language.

Laws relating to adult education were passed during 1927, in Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska and Rhode Island.

Connecticut required that the state board of education establish a division of adult education and appoint a director thereof, and authorized the school committee of any town designated by the state board of education to appoint, subject to approval of the said board, a director of adult education.

An act of the Delaware Legislature authorized the state board of education to create a service bureau for foreign-born residents, and to promote the process of Americanizing such residents, and to protect them from exploitation.

An enactment of Florida provided for the establishment of public evening schools, elementary and high, as a branch of the school system which

*From December, 1929, *Independent Education*.

(Continued on page 410)

What Price Monotony!

The truth about human nature and its many manifestations are revealed in various ways. Dr. G. V. Hamilton, in an article in the *Forum*, describes some of his findings as a result of twenty-seven years of research in studies of monkeys, orphans, children from private families, certain animals, Ohio natives, and married people among college men and women.

Monkeys, like ourselves are primates, and we share in common at least one major craving that all other animals seem to lack. "This," he says, "is the craving for a variety of stimulation. Indeed to the primates—it is the very spice of life—the distinguishing mental badge of their aristocracy in the animal world!" He said it is possible to "see how curiosity and the itch to make new things can produce nervous indigestion as well as what we call 'progress'." With enough knowledge and intuition it is possible to see how these qualities are diverted into destructive, even criminal acts.

He found that monkeys were healthy and happy when given an opportunity to have new kinds of excitement, but as soon as their surroundings no longer offered such possibilities they began to mope, grow irritable and to invent unwholesome ways to add color to their lives. A monkey (or a venturesome small boy for that matter) will do senseless and hazardous things to satisfy his craving for excitement. "Husband monkeys," he discovered, "inflicted ingeniously devised cruelties upon their wives, and monkey wives tormented their husbands unnecessarily. Old friends would lie in wait for each other on opposite sides of wire-mesh partition and bite off fingers thrust through the screen in climbing. Chewing off one's own tail bit by bit became a solo pastime, and many other kinds of self-inflicted torture served to alleviate boredom."

Mere lack of sufficiently varied stimulation plays havoc with human beings as well, though they are less primitively violent. They pay the price for unrelieved monotony in other ways. Observation in rural Ohio brought to his attention a type of nervousness described as "bad roads neurasthenia." During the late winter and early spring when country people could not use their automobiles, patent medicine men reaped a harvest and sold "nerve tonics" by the barrel. When the muddy roads of spring dried up, the

sale of nerve tonics dropped off and that of gasoline picked up. The farmer and his family were off to satisfy the primate's craving for variety of stimulation.

Observations in New York lead the psychiatrist to the conclusion that domestic monotony "can sometimes be the equivalent of the big monkey cage or of the clay roads." The lack of sufficiently varied stimulation "proved an important factor in reducing some husbands and many wives to a state of nervous discontent" and indicated that monotony is "a large contributing item in most instances where an ugly marital fretfulness poisons two lives without leading either to the divorce court or to the psychiatrist's office."

"The practical point," Dr. Hamilton says, is "just as the body requires a great many different kinds of food, so, too the mind must be given frequent variations of experience. This is a fundamental need of all the primates, and whatever any creature wants—primate or not—he will try to get it in one way or another. Stable a horse and deprive him of salt, and he will gnaw his manger until whole boards are bitten in two. Make the life of a monkey, a farmer, or a city wife too monotonous, and the nervous system will tense itself until new experiences occur, or until the chronic tension supplies the needed variety in the form of symptoms." . . .

"Mere variety of stimulation seems to satisfy the primates—man or monkey. Let them have it, and they are reasonably healthy and happy; take it away, and you have neurotic humans and sadistic monkeys. Their nerves or their cruelty can be traced back to a confined or humdrum life."

With some human beings what they crave and lack is not a mere variety of stimulation, they demand productiveness as well. For many who have cut-and-dried jobs, some hobby for their idle hours saves them from the need of "a sure cure for nerves."

"It is estimated that the active work for the period when one is from 18 to 28 years old, could and will at some early day suffice to be all the work that the average person needs to do. This promises many solid years of leisure for everyone."—Dr. Frederick Ferry, President of Hamilton College.

Recreation for Adults in One City

Irvington, New Jersey, is proud of the enthusiastic response to its adult recreation program and the progress made during the three years since its inception, because it has unquestionably proved the need for organized adult recreation.

Athletics the Approach

In May, 1927, a survey of the city was made by the present Superintendent of Recreation. Athletics were found to be the direct avenue of approach to the year-round adult recreation program. As a result of this finding, the Municipal Athletic Federation, representing every athletic and civic group in the Community, was formed. One hundred and twenty men made up the Board of Governors. A constitution was drawn up necessitating federation membership for all participants with an annual fee of \$.25, and a team membership varying from \$2.00 to \$5.00 for all branches of athletic competition. Questionnaires were sent to industrial plants in order to formulate a program of activities which would meet the greatest demand. Teams representing factories and organizations immediately formed a Municipal Baseball League. A Tennis tournament was held during the summer of 1928. Basketball and bowling leagues of capacity membership were organized in the Fall as was a horseshoe pitching league of great popularity. A City Field meet brought together the track athletes.

A gymnasium class for men was organized in the Fall on a self-supporting basis. Members of this class were also affiliated with the Municipal Athletic Federation.

A Community Recreation Council the Next Step

Then followed a move of great importance to the whole plan of organization. Twenty-two men representing the civic life of the community, because of their affiliation with outstanding organizations and movements, were invited to confer with the Superintendent of Recreation relative to the further development of the adult program. At this meeting it was decided to form a Community Recreation Council. This Council now numbers 48 members and includes representatives of 30 organizations as well as the Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce

and other prominent citizens. The group meets for dinner once a month and carries out in no small way its purpose which is stated as follows:

"To serve to the best of our ability, unselfishly and courageously, in the interest of health, happiness, and citizenship, by fostering the public recreation interests of Irvington.

"As citizens of this Town, we agree to meet on the fourth Thursday of each month for the purpose of discussing, aiding in the projection and carrying on of the work of the Department of Public Recreation.

"We pledge ourselves to the responsibility of furthering those wholesome leisure-time activities that develop a richer life for our citizens, and create community unity.

"With these thoughts in mind, we propose to encourage the participation of all Irvington's citizens in music, drama and physical activities, the discussion of public affairs and the intellectual use of spare time."

Music Activities Follow

The Community Chorus

The Irvington Community Chorus was the first adult music activity organized by the Irvington Department of Public Recreation. During the winter of '27-'28 names of local singers and others interested in music were secured. In March, 1929, church and school directors were invited to meet with the Department and representatives of the local Women's Club and the Kiwanis Club of Irvington. Plans were made for the immediate formation of a community chorus and a concert in Music Week sponsored by the Kiwanis and Women's Club. All the church choirs of the city were represented. This group made up 40% of the total number of singers.

The chorus, numbering 146, has now finished its third successful season under a volunteer director and accompanist—both well-known musicians of repute. Two to three concerts are given each season at an approximate cost of \$200 per concert. Part of the expense is defrayed by voluntary collections. The personnel of the chorus varies in age from a girl of 17 to an elderly enthusiast of 70 and includes salesmen, teachers, a barber, a journalist, a butcher, stenographers, housewives and others—a cross section of any city.

A Ukulele Club

At about this time a group of business girls formed a ukulele club which met one night a week and combined ukulele instruction with a social evening. The club was self-supporting. The group was small but owed its success in part to that very fact as an intimacy and a comradeship developed which would have been impossible in a large class. This group will be reorganized in the Fall.

The Symphony Orchestra

Organized in October, 1928, with 30 musicians, the Irvington Symphony Orchestra has steadily grown until today it has an enrollment of 74 talented members. During the first six months the majority of the players were members of the local high school orchestra. During the second season the membership of high school students was limited to 12. Of the other 62 members 9 are college students, 7 are clerks, 7 school teachers; the rest represent manufacturing jewelers, housewives, music teachers, painters, carpenters, mechanics, professional musicians, insurance clerks, bank clerks, a telephone engineer and a butcher. The orchestra has presented 10 concerts, each of which has been sponsored by some community agency such as the Kiwanis Club, Women's Club, American Legion, Elks, and similar groups. Sponsorship has consisted of ushering, taking the voluntary collections, and various other services.

There are a number of union musicians in the orchestra. Players receive no remuneration with the exception of four or five outside musicians whom it is necessary to secure for some concerts due to lack of sufficient oboe, French horn and bass players. The conductor is paid, as are the majority of the soloists. Concerts are held in the high school auditorium, the use of which is granted by the Board of Education. The programs have included compositions by Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, Gounod, Tschaikowsky, Wagner and Dvorak. To date in the department's library are complete orchestrations of some 60 compositions. A set of tympanies and a bass drum are also owned by the department.

The audiences attending the concerts have averaged from 600 to 1,200 people, over 400 of whom are members of the Recreation Department's Music Federation. The cost of the orchestra for the past season was approximately \$1,200 and about one-third of this cost was met by voluntary collections taken at most of the concerts.

A Chess and Checker Club

In March, 1927, 28 men attended a meeting called by the Superintendent of Recreation for the purpose of bringing together the chess and checker players of the city. A noted player of a nearby town gave a talk on the games and played checkers simultaneously with seven of the group. The result of this meeting was the formation of the Irvington Chess and Checker Club. The club met weekly and sponsored several local tournaments.

Home Gardens Popular

A Home and Garden Contest

One hundred eighty-two yards and gardens were entered in the first Home and Garden contest held during the summer of 1928 under the joint auspices of the Recreation Department and a local newspaper. A city of small houses with small yards, but great pride in keeping them in attractive condition, is the sentiment in most of the sections of the town. The yards and gardens of the contestants were judged in June and again in September in order to note the improvement. Prizes and certificates were awarded the winners.

The Garden Club

One of the most successful activities for men and women in Irvington is the Garden Club. The Department called a meeting of all interested in flower gardening in April, 1929. The County Agricultural Agent was present to make soil tests. Three men and seven women attended. An informal discussion of Irvington's need of a Garden Club followed and resulted in the appointment of a temporary chairman. An organization meeting followed with double the attendance. Constitution and by-laws were adopted, officers elected. Personal solicitation of friends and neighbors plus newspaper publicity increased the membership to 40 by September. At this time the first Flower Show was held. There were 150 entries. The guest register showed 1,070 visitors.

The Club observed Arbor Day this year by the planting of three Japanese cherry trees in honor of a deceased member. At the present time a Yard-Garden Contest is being conducted by the club in cooperation with the local Kiwanis Club.

The Irvington Garden Club is sponsored by the Department of Public Recreation but has its own officers, dues, etc. A member of the Recreation Department staff is the executive secretary. The

club meets every month with a speaker. The membership now is 94. The average attendance is 65.

The enthusiasm of this group is best demonstrated by the remark of a new member, "I'd give anything I own to have been a charter member of the Irvington Garden Club!"

Activities for Girls and Women

In October, 1928, anticipating the call for organized recreation for women, a gymnasium class for business girls and housewives was formed. The response was gratifying and paved the way for the addition of another member to the staff as director of women's and girls' activities.

In 1929 activities for women were really organized. A women's bowling league of 12 teams representing 8 organizations had a short but successful opening season culminating in a banquet with 100 women bowlers in attendance. A handcraft class for women and a tap dancing class were popular while the gym class continued to increase in attendance. All of these classes were organized on a self-supporting basis. Volley ball and diamond ball were the spring activities which drew the largest number of business women. Tennis classes for beginners have always had capacity membership.

All of the activities organized in 1929 have increased in membership and attendance this year. 125 women recently appeared in a gym and dancing demonstration.

Drama

At the beginning of the work little had been attempted in the line of dramatics with the exception of a small drama institute which had aroused interest and pointed out the leaders in the community. With the help of this group a Christmas pageant was given in the High School auditorium in December, 1928. In addition to members of the Community Chorus there were 74 adults who took part in the performance that reflected credit on all. It was a finished production with lighting effects and costumes that left a lasting impression on the large and appreciative audience.

This was the first Christmas that Irvington had celebrated as a community. A lighted tree contest and a large Christmas caroling group which visited the hospital, alms house and other institutions created a community spirit that the city needed.

The Outlook Encouraging

A picture of adult recreation in Irvington is not complete without mentioning the inestimable help that the many volunteer members have been to the carrying out of the program. With a year-round staff, consisting only of a superintendent of recreation, a women's worker and office secretary, it is easily understood that the help of volunteers was essential.

The department has had numerous letters from organizations and individuals expressing their interest in the department and appreciation for the opening of facilities for participation under trained leadership.

Athletic activities have increased in interest from year to year. The municipal bowling league numbers 32 teams. There are active baseball and basketball leagues, horseshoe and tennis tournaments and leagues and numerous other seasonal activities.

Because of the perfecting of organization methods and increasing attention to self-supporting activities it has been possible to set up a gradual increase in adult activities without over-balancing the budget. The music federation made up of some six hundred men and women who have attended civic orchestra and chorus concerts will help make the winter musical activities self-supporting.

What It Means to the Community

"Best means of developing community spirit."
—*Irvington Herald*.

"Means dollars and cents in interest on the investment in public recreation."—*A Bank President*.

"Three years ago I was not very proud of Irvington. To date I can point with pride to our civic orchestra, chorus, many other worth while activities."—*Raymond Gray*.

"The average American must always be 'going away.' He goes away for the summer. He goes away for the winter. He goes down south. He goes up north, to the city, to the country, to the mountains, to the lakes, perpetually to and fro about the earth, hesitating, but not arriving, seeking, but not attaining, restlessly rushing from place to place.

"Shall the educated man do anything better for the free hours that are bound to be his?"

The Values of Play

The recognition which the recreation movement is receiving indirectly from the increasing references to the values inherent in play is illustrated by the following three extracts from the editorial page of one day's issue, June 4th, 1930, of the *Detroit Free Press*.

The first was from an editorial concerning the Belle Isle Meet in which some 30,000 boys and girls from the public schools competed and included these sentences: "Such contests breed school spirit and esprit de corps, at the same time that they are winning victories over undeveloped muscles. This is one of the finest things about them. Selfishness doesn't have to be taught. The spirit that takes girls and boys, women and men into the game to win for the sake of all must be encouraged. Athletic contests in which thought of self is subordinated to thought of school or college, are among the most effective means of instilling this lesson in minds still young and receptive. The boys and girls who will compete on Belle Isle this week are citizens in the making. They cannot learn too young that self-repression in the interest of a larger whole is a useful virtue. A community as cosmopolitan as Detroit has done well to exalt the playground in its schools for still another reason: There is there no room for racial jealousy or bickering. Such wholesale events as the Belle Isle meet bring out the best qualities of all the strains that will make up the future population of this city, where they can be mutually observed and recognized."

The second was from the *Good Morning* column of M. W. Bingay. "One of the richest men in Detroit or in America, once said to me as a group of us sat arguing about books while he had to remain silent: 'I would give all my millions if I could enjoy life as you fellows do. If I only knew how to play! I am the biggest failure that I know of because I am always unhappy and discontented. I worked so hard for so many years and so many millions have poured in upon me that now I feel like that fellow I used to read about when I was a kid in school. If I remember, they called him Midas.' And you'd be surprised if you knew who this chap is."

And the third was from George Matthew Adams' *Today's Talk*. The subject was Imprisonment and the last sentence was: "When civilization comes of age it will tear down its jails and

put schools, playgrounds and flower beds in their place."

"Educators are coming to see that a very important aim of all training should be to make children more successful and happy as *children* rather than to attempt to make men and women of boys and girls of 6 to 10. They are recognizing that the great project and enterprise of childhood is and has always been play. The vigor and robustness which enable one to live a long life, useful and happy to the end, are seldom, if ever, found except in people who have spent much of their childhood in enjoyable activities outdoors.

"So far as known, there has been no definite study made with a view to determining exactly the health value of play, but studies which have been made tend to indicate that the morbidity of children increases with the progress of the school year, and that an increase in required home work causes an increase in morbidity."—From *Health for School Children*. School Health Studies No. 1, Bureau of Education.

In *The Craftsman* for September, 1905, there appeared an article by A. M. Simon under the caption, *Evolution of Leisure for the Many* in which he predicted the time "when the many shall own the machine, when the mechanical slave shall furnish leisure to all and all can share in perfecting the quality of production, in discovering new and higher wants and means to gratify them and in contributing thus to the progress of the mass."

"This is a dream made up, as all dreams are, of past experiences that the race is dreaming. Today it is more than a dream. It is a vision of the coming days when Labor shall rule and rest and find pleasure in his work and when all shall labor and have leisure for fuller life and knowledge to secure and enjoy that life."

"We have the task of relating work, family, play, religion and the rest of living, in this stupendous universe. We need a sense of what the whole business is all about, of what really counts everlastingly."—Robert S. Lynd in *Progressive Education*, May, 1930.

The Right Use of Leisure

(RECREATION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL)

Through the courtesy of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers the National Recreation Association has been permitted to publish the first three prize-winning essays for the essay contest conducted by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers on the subject of *The Right Use of Leisure*. As these essays deal primarily with the leisure of adults we are publishing them in connection with this issue of PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION.

First Prize Essay

Mrs. S. E. Sparling

Colonial Book Club, Demopolis, Alabama

Leisure! Magic word, meaning that time which is free from necessary occupation. The moment one says leisure *must be used* in a prescribed manner, he has contradicted its essential meaning, freedom to act. Whatever else may be said of it, leisure, to be such, inherently belongs to its possessor. Leisure is the aura of the spirit, the ether in which the soul may thrive and expand, bud and blossom.

More than our work does our leisure proclaim us. Work compels us, but play is of our own devising. We may perform our daily tasks whatever they may be—housekeeping a home or a nation—efficiently and whole-heartedly, but the world that touches us intimately inquires curiously, not into how we work, but how we play; not how we respond to the pull of the harness nor the crack of the whip, but how we cavort in the pasture. There, the body being unfettered, fine points of breeding, qualities of heart and soul manifest themselves; there, genuine mettle is shown.

The use of leisure is so far recognized as of national concern that educators and legislators are formulating curricula and laws providing for and regulating the play of childhood and adolescent youth. But what of ourselves, the adults of communities, whose formative period is passed and whose disposal of leisure and the reaping of its rewards is entirely a matter of personal choice and responsibility? Is there no hope that I, the adult, may enrich my personal life and expand my own arch

"Where through gleams that untraveled world
whose margin fades forever and forever as
I move"?

This rich possession of my leisure, what may I do with it? Well, certainly, I shall make it first of all recreational. I shall relax my physical and mental tenseness and recreate bodily and mentally for my daily task. To do this perfectly I must recreate pleasantly, and so shall indulge in that exercise that best fits my tastes and my opportunities—it may be walking or golfing, hunting or gardening. Whatever my choice, I shall relax, recreate my strength, stretch out any cramped fibre, and present my ego with a surrounding diametrically opposite to my work-a-day world. Even though my occupation has required a vigorous use of muscle, I shall, nevertheless, feel the need of an outdoor relaxation that to me is a species of play.

Having given a portion of leisure to physical rejuvenation and the airing out of the mental chambers of fatigue, I shall be at leisure to satisfy a purely personal longing for something stimulating to soul or spirit. That yearning in me may demand one thing, in you, another. I may want to hear good music, read poetry, lose myself in books of history, biography or fiction. I may have my spirit in a bit of beautiful landscape, and elate it with the exhilarating air and mood of the season.

Sheer emptiness of time is not recreation. I may sometimes be content to close my eyes, absorb sunshine or fire glow, and merely "invite my soul"; but those moments are rare. I shall fight wastefulness of time and spirit, remembering that recreation is of necessity dynamic, not static; constructive, not wasteful. If I have a hobby I shall indulge it; if I have none I shall discover one and add to my enjoyment of life by the cultivation of a whim or the developing of a talent. We hear of famous men and women, hard pressed by the demands their work makes upon them, regaling and refreshing themselves by indulgence in a hobby. The book-weary professor relaxes at his work bench and lathe. A head waiter in a restaurant cultivates prize-winning roses. Our presidents fish or hunt big game. An editor builds a bird sanctuary and

invites and studies his feathered friends. I may master a fiddle or a foreign language, train fruit trees to grow on trellises, hook rugs or study interior decoration. But I have time to become engrossed in something I yearn to do, and develop a proficiency that will enrich and satisfy the inner *me*—which is, after all, the *Ultima Thule*.

Again to add to my enrichment I must cultivate social qualities and render myself satisfying to friends and community, but particularly to home and family. To do this I must keep abreast of the times, and be a part of the world by knowing through the medium of newspapers, magazines, radio, and as a sympathetic listener, what the world is doing and thinking.

My use of leisure may ennoble my work and give it an additional value. I lift my work to whatever level my spiritual life dwells upon. My hands may move through a maze of mediocrity, but my mind need not be bound by the limits of that occupation.

By my use of leisure I am judged; if I am a teacher, my pupils note how I relax, what I do "off duty." If I am father or mother my children observe how I spend my freedom; and, as I, the parent, do, so may I anticipate my children will likewise do. If I would have them develop fine tastes and right values I, too, must have those inclinations and valuations, and silently emanate them.

My leisure is my house: it may be beautifully furnished and sitting on a hill top. If I would construct such a refuge against the day of old-age boredom or the affliction of physical disability, I must have a plan, be methodical. My leisure will be none the less leisure if it have *definiteness, direction, objective*. I will exercise in some form of outdoor play, I will cultivate a talent or indulge a hobby, I will intelligently sharpen my appreciation of that lovely world that lies before us every day and shines upon us with such splendor at night. I will stimulate my interest in the progress of the world, and enrich my days by deepening the comradeship around my own hearthstone.

Second Prize Essay

Mrs. Raymond A. Berry

Nineteenth Century Club, Provo, Utah

Any treatise on recreation by the average woman who is engaged in making a home, doing her

own housework and rearing a family, might well be called an adventure in romanticism. Surely it is based upon flights of the imagination, for any great amount of time in which she has nothing to do is the possession of the very rich or exceedingly stupid. The first class is too uncommon to justify devoting much time to them; the second could not use ideas anyway.

For years, due to small children and a smaller income, my only contact with recreation was through the medium of Webster's Dictionary. I found this association singularly lacking in nourishment. It was cold, unimaginative, and stressed a point that I had come to loathe. Recreate! How could a person whose waking hours for years had been spent in one unremitting ordeal of recreating peace after quarrels, little dresses out of big ones, luncheons out of dinners and hope from despair, expect to gain joy or relaxation from any process of recreating!

In my own case it patently could not be done. My need was for something entirely different. I must have something that would take my mind completely away from its customary rut and not impose a new strain of any kind.

I tried bridge, that delightful but much abused pastime. I found that if I could play easily—cleverly, if possible, for the sake of my partner's nerves, I could find myself at the end of two hours with my mind at peace, my nerves easy, and with that pleasant sense of well being that is the reaction of a good time. But if I hurried through a pile of half-done dishes, rushed off in a confused state of mind, sat through the afternoon with my nerves taut at the thought of the vitriolic remarks my partners might make in my presence and the more vitriolic ones saved for my absence, if I hurried home in an exasperated, perhaps humiliated state of mind, with the buzz of the afternoon ringing in my head until the children's ordinary noise became unbearable and my husband's most innocent remarks the signal for a combat, then I must cut cards off my list.

Recreation should do two things—rest and stimulate. Sleep or a hot, soaking bath, will either of them do the first, but they fail on that needed second point! So, what should I do with those odd moments, hours or days that were beginning to come when I might call a little time my own? Should I embroider, play golf, agitate civic reforms, gossip over the back fence, tramp the hills, study the great masters of literature, read detective or problem stories, or organ-

ize children's clubs? I knew the answer for me must be different from that of any other woman in America. What is rest for another might be labor for me, just as telling the children bedtime stories and popping them into bed with dozens of kisses planted on their baby dimples is heavenly joy, while jerking their nightgowns over their heads and hurrying their lagging little feet across the bedroom floor in irritated haste is hard labor. Recreation is a state of mind as well as body.

Therefore, would not any civic work which placed me with interesting people and took me out of myself deserve first place on the list of desirable ways to spend leisure time? I decided it would. It had the advantage of being stimulating; managed rightly, it should be restful and give the satisfaction that comes from something done for others. In this category I lumped everything along the line of Camp Fire or Girl Scout work, study of school or work conditions, charitable associations and Sunday school work. Surely these are quite as restful as most of the leisure occupations even the laziest of us choose.

Next on my list I placed some form of study. If done for credit it might be fun or it might be work. Again it was that state of mind business. But read one must in some form or other. And twin sister to that was the Conversational Club or the little groups of friends who can spend an evening of talk that deals with ideas, not things, with events, not personalities.

Then I must spend some time in the out of doors. At first I had to snatch this communion with Nature while I held in my hand a hoe, but no high-brow student of Nature can get more than the woman with the hoe, provided the tool is not symbolical of a destitute mental condition.

Some of us who were reared under the old dispensation and caught in our earlier years the idea that prayer is a duty performed every day to appease a jealous Creator, wonder what it would be like to list some sort of communion between God and one's own soul as the highest form of leisure, the most stimulating, the most restful. Wouldn't it be interesting to watch the reaction if such a practice were advertised as avidly by the magazines as the need for labor-saving devices or the sale of cigarettes? If we took to this with the same eager conscientiousness that we do to dieting or our "daily dozen," would not a new measure of rest, dignity and quiet nerves fall upon us as a consequence? May it be the next advertising campaign of our press!

So I put my recreations to the acid test. Do I return home more charming to my children? Am I better company for myself? Have I learned something interesting beyond an exhibition of some one's idiosyncrasies? Have I heard a clever remark or a new interpretation of some bit of literature? If I have done any of these, and kept my mind at peace, my re-creation has lived up to its name.

Somewhere along the gamut from bridge to prayer there is some means of using spare time so that one returns to service revived. To find her particular need is every woman's problem.

Third Prize Essay

Mrs. B. G. Leighton

Hibbing, Minnesota

Within a few decades great changes have brought a new uplift, and with it a new freedom to the working people of the world. Universal education, reduction of disease through medical research and the teaching of health laws, the new status of women, the development and invention of machinery, the improvement of factory management, the elimination of the liquor industry—all these have been contributing factors to this age of opportunity. Invention has been particularly important. It has speeded production and lightened labor; it has brought comfort, even luxury, and the great gift of leisure time.

With the increase of leisure time a national problem has arisen—how to direct men's purposes so that this leisure may not be spent in idleness, mischief or crime, but may be used wisely for individual self-improvement and a higher level of living for all. (The highest purpose of life is the building of character. Leisure may destroy character if men and women waste their time in dissipation and cheap, degrading amusement; it will ennoble character if used purposefully to seek knowledge, beauty, health and happiness.)

If I should attempt to teach these great masses of people turned loose, as it were, like a crowd of untrained children dismissed from school from a long recess period, with no particular tools of play but just the time and the instinct to amuse themselves, how could I outline in simple, direct speech some of the most important ways in which they might employ this modern gift of leisure time?

The motion picture and the radio play popular parts in the leisure life of America today and cannot be ignored. Unfortunately the motion picture has been used to degrade as well as to uplift, but its standards are constantly improving, due to the demands of the public and other special forces, and this is a hopeful sign. With sound and color now added to sight the possibilities of this great industry for bringing beauty and enlightenment to all the world are unlimited. With proper urging the motion picture and the radio will become greater and greater educational mediums, and will play their parts in the upward trend.

Too steady a diet of passive entertainment will soon become tiresome and unsatisfying. Some leisure must be spent in play. Play is a form of recreation usually regarded as the child's prerogative. It is true that play is a natural instinct in a child, but this same instinct, though modified and subdued, is never quite lost to the adult. *Play!* Choose something in which you may be an active participant. A spectator receives only a temporary mental stimulation or relaxation; a participant experiences a mental, physical and even spiritual benefit, far more satisfying. Golfing, bowling, camping, hiking, fishing—there are hundreds of interesting ways in which one may play. The man or woman who forgets himself or herself in spontaneous enjoyment of some form of play is approaching very close to that elusive thing we are all trying to capture—happiness.

Next, develop your own particular talent. You do not need to be a genius to learn the joy of creating beauty. Whether it be dramatics, singing, sketching, painting, playing an instrument, writing, gardening, collecting—all men and women should have a hobby for their leisure hours.

Dr. Joseph Jastrow, the eminent psychologist, expresses this advice in his book, "Keeping Mentally Fit." In catchy phrase he says: "Take a relaxative!" . . . "You won't find relaxatives made up in drug stores, nor even find the word in the dictionary. But it's a good prescription, none the less, that you have to make, take, and even shake, yourself." And again, "Everybody should have a vocation, which is his job, and an avocation, which is his relaxative, and it must be along a different pattern. 'Bridge' is right enough for people who use it rightly, but it may be too near the pattern of your daily strain, and the gambler isn't relaxing." . . . "One of the best and most human relaxatives is playing with chil-

dren; that's grandfather's and grandmother's favorite indoor sport."

No one in the world is too busy nor too poor to play. No one is too poor to have a hobby. Most cities have recreation departments in connection with their parks or their schools, and most rural communities have their community clubs. If there is no department or club within your reach, you will find it an easy matter to organize a group. The world is all ready for suggestions on the subject of leisure time. Develop your hobby by the aid of a club or a night school class. Or even if you start alone you will soon find others to join you. A common interest attracts friends.

Reading is extremely important. Read, study and reflect. Read systematically for information, for knowledge, for self-improvement. Use your increasing knowledge in better living. A reading nation will eventually be an educated nation, and an educated nation means a higher civilization.

Personal social service should not be neglected. Give some of your time to the sick and the old, and to those who are lonely and need friends. This sort of service is good for the soul.

These four ways of using leisure time may be regarded as stones to be used in the building of character: Play, the stone for the building of health and happiness; creative art, to be used in the building of beauty; reading or study, in the building of truth and the intellectual life, and service, in the development of the spiritual nature.

There would be no leisure time problem for the educators to solve if everyone could be taught to (1) limit and select their passive forms of entertainment, (2) relax mind and body by indulging in active play, (3) express themselves in some art or hobby which appeals to them, (4) develop the intellect and improve life by reading and (5) help in the uplift of others by personal and unselfish service. The right living of individuals means the uplift of the nation.

The degree to which the social side is developed in any man is the measure of his value to society. —*Susan M. Dorsey*, Superintendent of Schools Emeritus, Los Angeles.

"The best friendship, whether individual or international, is that found on the field of sport." —*The Prince of Wales*, from *Time*, June 17, 1929.

A Message From One Recreation Executive to Her Board

In the annual report of Miss Corinne Fondé, recreation executive in Houston, Texas, to her Board of Directors, Miss Fondé comments on the fact that the city has had a one-hundred per cent increase in population during the decade, and has entered the ranks of the largest cities of the country. In view of this increase and the problems which it involves, Miss Fondé asks her board to give consideration to a number of important questions.

"To my mind," she says, "the important question is: Are we as *great* as we are *large*?"

"Given size and every commercial advantage, what will it profit us if our people do not find happiness here?"

"Is the time, thought and money that we are spending in our human welfare programs commensurate with our material growth? Or are we in danger of sacrificing people to things?"

"To be specific: Is going over the top in our annual Community Chest drive an achievement if the top is too low?"

"Do you believe with the editor of the Journal of the National Education Association that 'The greatness of a nation is measured by the quality of its play,' because play is 'energy which is not earmarked by duty or necessity, but is dictated by interest and passion from within?'"

"Then haven't we forgotten something if we spend:

Millions for a ship channel and nothing for outdoor municipal swimming pools?

Thousands for air ports and nothing for municipal athletic fields?

Millions for miles of concrete pavement while we have only one concrete tennis court?

Millions for skyscrapers and nothing for field houses on our playgrounds?

Thousands to light a professional baseball stadium and not one cent to light courts where boys and girls who work may play at night?

Thousands for good-will trips and entertainment and for ads to 'boost Houston pay-rolls' and little or nothing to offer oppor-

tunities for recreation and contentment to the stranger that the new industry brings within our gates?

"Isn't it even shortsighted to spend (if the *Gargoyle* has it correctly):

One thousand dollars to keep one boy straight in Harris County School for one year and \$4.30 to keep one boy happy on a playground for one year?

One million dollars for a hospital to cure the sick and \$50,000 or less to build facilities for healthy outdoor recreation?

And to regard the police department and juvenile court as essentials and playgrounds and community centers—where citizenship is in the making—as luxuries?

"Do you believe that 'cities without proper leisure-time opportunities become moral graveyards for young manhood and young womanhood'; and that the adage, 'Be good and you will be happy' should be changed to 'Be happy and you will be good'?"

"When you read in the *Gargoyle* of Root Square—'Houston's crime center'—do you remember that this is a playground that is not fenced or lighted for night play, and do you realize that the playground director's job is no child's play? But do you know that for every incorrigible boy or girl on the playgrounds there are hundreds who are enjoying wholesome, constructive activities under carefully selected leadership?"

"Do you delude yourself into thinking that it is only so-called under-privileged children and people who need public playgrounds and centers, and will you be surprised when I tell you that in one of our prosperous additions recently a landlord prohibited neighborhood children from playing in his adjoining vacant lot because of his objection not to the noise, but to the language used?"

"Have you ever visited a playground, got acquainted with the director and her problems and her contribution to society? Would you like to take her place at her salary?"

"Isn't it time that we correct the too prevalent impressions that any woman who loves children

or is a good Christian character, though somewhat broken down and not capable of holding any other position, should be given a job on the playgrounds, and that a director capable of doing this preventive and constructive work can be hired for the wages of a nursemaid?

"Have you realized that our retrenchment program has meant that we have cut until it has hurt, that our chances of satisfaction in our work are lessened and those of public criticism increased? And, do you know, that in spite of this our staff spirit is probably the finest we have ever enjoyed? But is it fair?

"Do you know that hundreds of adults flocked to the City Auditorium for the square dances held by the Recreation Department this season and abandoned themselves once more to the joys of country breakdowns, the old schottische, the waltz, polka, mazurka, jigging, fiddlers and corn-shucking contests? And do you think this worth while?

"Have you ever observed in one of our community centers the many kinds of constructive activities going on, the skill required to conduct them, the different ages in attendance, the old-fashioned neighborliness of it?

"What do you think of a community that writes and produces its own play, the proceeds to be spent in enlarging its community center building? This is actually happening at our Lowell Center this Saturday night.

"Have you ever visited our Federation of Young People's Clubs and watched how earnestly its members go about planning and conducting recreation for themselves and others?

"Have you on any afternoon after five o'clock passed our new Recreation Field on Louisiana Street, which we are now operating through the courtesy of the School Board, and noticed how many people it is serving? Do you know that at any minute the schools, who have bond moneys and special tax, may start construction of a building here, and that the Street and Bridge Department, which also has bond moneys, may start cutting the balance of the area up with streets according to the city plan? Do you realize that we will have nothing to take its place unless something is done?

"Do you know that all of our playgrounds are lacking in many essentials of equipment—lights for night play, fencing, swimming basins, field houses, courts and diamonds, running tracks, etc?

"Are you one of those who believe that if only

for the sake of self-preservation every boy and girl should learn to swim? Do you know that there is exactly one small outdoor municipal swimming pool in Houston, and that in Park Place, the extreme eastern edge of our city?

"Do the newspaper stories of boys drowned in our bayous distress you?

"Do you know that in our prairie city we have very few park properties with sufficient flat area for a baseball diamond, and that we, therefore, have to lease diamonds in order to give Houston boys and men a chance to play?

"Do you realize that our facilities generally are inadequate and that we have use of none (except the Recreation Club House) upon which someone else does not have the first call?

"In considering the recent census report have you a mental picture of what Houston will be ten years from now? Is it not reasonable to expect that there will be twice as many young people here in 1940, and that the cost of recreational properties and facilities for their use will be infinitely greater?

"Do you remember that we acknowledged at least five years ago that while functioning normally, in some respects, our Recreation Department was sick in others, and that we accordingly called in a specialist from P. R. A. A. to make a Houston recreational survey?

"And do you know that the six Houstonians who constitute our Recreation Commission last August, when most boards were disbanded, met one night each week in two and three-hour sessions and formulated for Houston a Major Recreational Plan, based upon this survey? Copies of both this major plan and of the survey in condensed form will soon be available to you. Will you consider them worthy of your serious thought, study and action?

"Do you know that the diagnosis of L. H. Weir who made the survey is that our Recreation Department is suffering from lack of facilities and from insufficient funds—in other words, that it needs general building up. He warns us that growing as rapidly as we are, quick action is imperative and suggests several cures, all of which will have to be applied by the Houston people themselves. They are: Special recreation tax, or to so educate the public to our recreational needs that no administration can fail to make adequate appropriations, and bond issues or gifts from public-spirited citizens or both.

(Continued on page 410)

When the Goblins Are About!

SOME COMMUNITY HALLOWE'EN CELEBRATIONS

"Whiffle Puff" Walks Abroad

At 7 o'clock, on October 31st, of last year, a strange creature appeared on the streets of Hibbing, Michigan. It was Whiffle Puff, the ghost of Hallowe'en, created by the Hibbing Park Board, as its contribution to the people of that city in their merrymaking. Whiffle Puff was 20 feet in height and electrically illuminated, but in spite of his size he manipulated his arms and head with considerable ease. His neck, which turned readily, stretched about a foot and a half as the weird ghost uttered shrill shrieks.

Followed by hundreds of boys and girls in costume, this modern and unique "Pied Piper" led the way in a journey around the city, which ended at the Memorial Building, where two Hallowe'en celebrations took place—one, for boys and adults, in the hockey rink; another, for girls, in the auditorium. The boys' program included a Chamber of Horrors with many novelty stunts. Every boy was initiated into the secret order of the Whiffle Puff, and throughout the evening carried a distinct badge of honor. Following this adventure came a peanut hunt, then a tug-of-war, a cage ball contest, a blindfold bag swat, an airplane contest, boxing matches and a machine-gun barrage with a demonstration in the use of the machine gun by the chief of police. Throughout the evening the Hibbing concert band furnished music.

The girls' program at the auditorium consisted of a costume parade, games, fortune telling booths, dancing, stunts, entertainment numbers and a Hall of Terror. There were ten outdoor community celebrations which centered around a bonfire. A snake dance, a sing, "wienie" and apple roasts, mass games and entertainment stunts made up these programs.

Approximately 150 volunteers and a large number of organizations aided in making the program successful.

Centralia's Frolic

Centralia, in southern Illinois, has held an annual Hallowe'en Frolic since 1923, and each year

the parade and the frolic have increased in size and have become more elaborate. Last year forty floats appeared in the parade representing civic, industrial and fraternal organizations and schools. Ten bands and two "Rube" bands furnished music. There were many displays and novelty stunts, including a fifteen-minute display of fireworks from an airplane.

After the parade came band concerts, jitney and square dances with everyone joining in and having a good time. "Rube" stunts furnished amusement for the crowds. And crowds there were, for practically everyone in the city had put on a mask and come downtown to have a good time, where the streets were blocked off and the crowds wandered at will. Last year 18,000 people were reported to have seen the parade.

St. Paul's Hallowe'en Celebration

The Recreation Department of St. Paul on Hallowe'en sponsored a celebration which was heralded through a radio talk and publicity in the local papers, giving the designated stopping points where children were to gather and be taken in the line of march. On the evening of the 31st, parade lines were formed in three distinct districts of the city at various playground centers. Headed by bands and musical organizations, with troops of Boy Scouts and school police, the parade lines passed through the residential and business districts of the community, gathering hundreds of children as they went, and completing the march at a playground, where a huge bonfire awaited the children's arrival. Assisting in the line of march were members of various men's and women's clubs of the respective communities and motorcycle police, who entered into the spirit of the occasion but gave efficient service officially.

Around the bonfire games were played and song fests held. Later, when the children were tired from their dancing and play, the Booster Clubs from the different centers contributed marshmallows to be toasted over the burning embers. The celebration started at 7 o'clock in the



A GAY COSTUME

The costume of this young gallant of Miami Beach shows a high degree of ingenuity! A sheet and a rug form the foundation. The headdress is made of a towel. A few pine needles, fastened with a bottle top, give a jaunty air to the ensemble. Father's socks have been borrowed for the occasion.

evening, and 10 o'clock the children were sent home, tired but happy.

When Fun and Frolic Reign Supreme

The Hallowe'en celebration at Miami Beach, Florida, proved to be one of the most enjoyable occasions ever held. It was a big night for the children, and an equally big one for the grown-ups, for there was an uninterrupted program of fun from early evening until the close of the entertainment at Bassett Junior High School.

Hundreds of people lined the streets along the line of march to enjoy the fantastic parade. Practically every school child, from the fourth grade up in the Bassett district, turned out in costume, and ghosts, witches, goblins and grotesque characters romped the streets. The parade was headed by an escort of police, followed by *Uncle Sam* and *Miss Liberty*. Then came the St. Francis Orphan Asylum drum corps and the schools of the district, each grade carrying a sign. The exercises at the school consisted of entertainment stunts by the children.

The 1930 Hallowe'en program selected by the Department of Recreation and Playgrounds at Lynchburg, Virginia, brought out the largest crowd of people the city had ever known. All of Main Street was turned over to the recreation authorities, and after the program at the stadium the entire street and the sidewalks were filled with thousands of people. All the stores were decorated and well lighted, and hundreds of posters were strung along the street. Some of the floats were especially beautiful, others unique and funny. There was plenty of music, some dancing and no trouble.

Spooks and Goblins in Los Angeles

Spooks and goblins and ghostly figures, carrying lighted pumpkins, danced around bonfires at the Los Angeles municipal playgrounds. There were special programs at the city playground with attractions in the form of games, parades, stunts, plays and bonfires. At North Hollywood was a haunted house filled with "scary" objects; at the Poinsettia Playground a brilliant carnival. At other playgrounds were novelty events of many kinds which business men's groups and other neighborhood organizations helped to arrange. Three story tellers in Hallowe'en costumes told stories at many of these festivals.

Making Their Own Masks

A roll of 1½ inch gummed paper, 5 yards of cheesecloth, a 5-pound package of white alabastine and one-half pound each of red, orange and black, furnished the ingredients for the creation by the playground children of Houston, Texas, of hundreds of clever Hallowe'en masks. Each playground director was supplied with this material for her playground. It was found that 3

cents would cover the cost of making one mask, and this amount the children paid themselves as far as possible.

Many Hallowe'en lanterns were also made, and a feature of the Hallowe'en parties on the playgrounds was the lantern parade in which the children wore the masks they had made.

This is the way the masks should be made:

On a board of convenient size a mud form is built up about three inches deep and as long and wide as a face. The corners are scraped away, making an oval shape, wider at the top. Holes are made for the eyes and mouth and a nose is built up.

Over this mud form—and a rather stiff mud is better than clay, though clay may be used—a piece of cheesecloth is spread and pressed down firmly so that it fits snugly. It is necessary to slash the cheesecloth at the mouth and eyes so that it will fit into the depressions.

Gummed paper $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide is cut into three-quarter inch lengths, and these are pasted on the cloth-covered form, the pieces being made to overlap until the form is completely covered. After this is dry it is removed from the mud foundation.

White alabastine is mixed with water to the consistency of cream. A small bit of orange may be added to color it. The mixture is applied evenly with a paint brush over the false face, and the cheesecloth is trimmed from the eyes and mouth. Any decorations desired may be added.

The celebrations outlined are typical of hundreds of similar community events which are being conducted everywhere. Through the efforts of recreation departments and other community groups, a new type of Hallowe'en has been brought into being—no longer a night to be dreaded, but an occasion for wholesome fun making—an altogether happy time.

A Few Stunts for Hallowe'en

A Game for the First Arrivals.—For a jolly Hallowe'en game, scoop out a very large pumpkin and make a Jack-o-lantern face in it, with an especially large mouth. Put the lantern on a firm table at the end of a hall, or in a large room, being careful not to have breakable things near. Give each person a small soft ball, and, in turn, let each try to throw it into the mouth of the lantern. Every time a player is successful he or she is given a funny Hallowe'en favor. Popcorn balls, lollipops and pumpkin stickpins are among the favors most appreciated.

Cat Hunt.—Have a large number of black cats cut from paper and placed in plain view all over the house. Appoint two people as leaders who will choose sides. These are known as "hounds," and they must obey their masters. At a given signal the hounds are turned loose to find the cat. No hound is allowed to touch a cat. When he finds one he must bark until his master comes to get the cat which has been found. It is a joyous uproar until all the cats are found. The side finding the greatest number of cats is given a large sack of candy corn and beans which the

successful players proceed to eat in front of the losers.

The Barrel Hoop.—Suspend a barrel hoop from the ceiling, and on its circumference fasten alternately at regular intervals apples, cake, candy and candle ends. The players gather in a circle around the hoop, and as it revolves each, in turn, tries to bite one of the edibles. The one unfortunate enough to seize the candle pays a forfeit by performing a Hallowe'en stunt later in the evening.

John Brown's Funeral.—After the telling of the ghost stories the host or hostess might announce in a solemn manner that "John Brown" had met with an automobile accident on his way to the party and that his body has arrived in sections. All the guests should be requested to kneel on the floor, and a large sheet should be brought in. Each person should grasp the sheet with the left hand and hold it about a foot from the floor. The lights are turned low. The "remains" should then be brought in in a covered basket, and the different parts passed around the circle under the sheet by each person's right hand, which is free.

The hostess could start things by saying: "Poor John only had one eye," and a grape might be passed around to represent this. A bit of false hair or a doll's wig would do for his scalp, a number of spools strung on stiff wire would serve as the spinal column, odd lengths of corn stalks for various bones, a large rubber bath sponge, slightly moistened for the brain, a kid glove stuffed with sawdust and dipped in ice water for his hand, and so on.

Other spooky things which might be passed under the sheet for this game are a hot potato, a piece of ice, a feather, a potato stuck full of short bits of toothpicks, a piece of fur, a shelled hard-boiled egg, all explained as symbols of horror which John was bringing with him to the party.

The Chamber of Horrors.—No Hallowe'en party is complete without a Chamber of Horrors. This room should be lighted very dimly, and its decorations should contribute to the feeling of awe and terror that is symbolical of Hallowe'en. From the ceiling should be suspended black cats and bats, and long strips of paper that dangle in the eyes of the guests. An electric fan will keep these blowing in a realistic manner. Mysterious noises produced by muffled gongs and far-away voices, running water splashing over a cow bell tied to a faucet; arms and skulls protruding from corn shucks placed against the wall, and large and small mirrors which reflect the grotesque light at all possible angles will increase the eeriness of the atmosphere.

In the center of the room should be seated an old witch who volunteers to tell fortunes. After all the guests have been satisfied, she calls to them to sit in a circle around her. When all the lights have been extinguished and quiet restored, she pours alcohol over a pan of salt and lights it. By the light of the resulting blue flame, which casts a ghastly pall over the countenances of the guests, she tells the inevitable ghost story.

Hallowe'en Telegrams.—A prize may be given to the guest making the best telegram to be sent to his lady love, using the letters found in the word "Hallowe'en" as the first letters in the words of the telegram. These should be read aloud.

Telling Fortunes by Objects.—The objects to be touched are dirt, water, ring and a rag. The one seeking his fortune should be turned around and also the objects may be changed;

then he tries his fortune by touching one object. The dirt means divorce, water an ocean trip, ring means marriage and the rag means no marriage at all.

Your Days Are Numbered.—Have a numbered list of fortunes prepared beforehand and hung in a conspicuous place. Hollow out a rather small pumpkin and put into it small numbered cards, or small witch, cat or pumpkin cut-outs, numbered on back. Pass the pumpkin and allow each guest to draw out a card. Each person then consults the numbered list for this fortune.

Fates Afloat.—Fill a small tub with water and provide each guest with a long hat pin. Have in the tub light rolls of white paper for the girls and pink for the boys on which are fortunes (just short sentences). Tie these good and fast. The trick is to stab a roll with a hat pin. When successful the roll is untied and read aloud. After the guests have had their fortunes told in various ways, all may take part in *Witch's Cat Hunt*.

The men line up in one row and the girls in another, facing each other. A blindfolded ghost goes to the men's line, takes one by the hand and goes across and touches a girl. These two are to be partners. This continues until all have partners. Have more than one ghost if the crowd is large. Before the game a number of cat cut-outs are hidden about the room. Announcement is made that the witch has lost her nine lives. Good luck will attend any couple finding the nine lives. The first couple to find and return nine of the lives will receive a reward. Hunting must be done in couples.

Retrieving the Witch's Broomstick.—Place three pumpkins in a straight line on the floor in the center of the room. Two players from opposing teams are stationed at an equal distance from them with a broomstick between them. At the signal each one pulls and the player that pulls his opponent past the pumpkins scores a point for his team. Every player on each team has a chance to try to "Retrieve the Witch's Broomstick." The team scoring most points wins.

Refreshments.—Refreshments may be simple or elaborate. A simple menu consists of Sand Witches (sandwiches), Elfin Pickles (pickles), Fried Butterflies (Potato chips), Devil's Cake (chocolate cake) and Black Cat Beverage (coffee).

A Day at a Palestine Playground

RACHEL SCHWARZ

Director Guggenheimer Playgrounds of Palestine

Mahneh Yehudah is a poor Jewish district in the new city of Jerusalem; it is the center of many other poor quarters, such as Nahlat Zion, Bute-el-Tenak (Houses of Tin) which, as the name rightly implies, contains dwellings of the poorest sort; Schunat Ahim, Schunat Shareh Zedek and other sections all thickly populated, mainly by Eastern Jews of various communities, such as Sepharadim, Persians, Khurdians, Urfeles and Moghrabis.

The Mahneh Yehudah playground is administered by the Hadassah Medical Organization, and is the second Guggenheimer playground in Jerusalem, the first, known as the "old city playground," being situated on Zion Hill. This playground is within the grounds of the Alliance

School. All its activities are, of course, conducted in the Hebrew language.

Activity Everywhere

The playground is opened at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A few moments later children from all the neighboring schools assemble, and every corner of the playground becomes alive. About 300 Jewish boys and girls are scattered here and there in groups, each group with its leader and special activity for the day. (At the Zion Hill playground Arab children also attend in large numbers.)

The playground apparatus, which was copied from the original American models received from the States, is already in full swing with the moni-



AN ARAB WEDDING—A SCENE FROM THE PURIM CARNIVAL

tors wearing their special ribbons, whistles in their mouths, supervising the queue and general order near the apparatus. A group of older boys with its own leader and referee is playing football. Two seminary students, who work at the playground as volunteers, are engaged, each with her own group, in circle games and Hebrew songs. Another group of boys in their teens is called to attention by its leader and taken to the horizontal bars for exercises. Two groups are busily engaged in the garden, digging and watering their plots and flower beds.

Here comes the donkey, led by two of the children. He has been hired for the day to bring special soil for the plant nursery. Other children are eagerly awaiting their turn to lead him. Further along some children are playing at pitching horseshoes and all sorts of target games.

Upstairs, in the rooms and the inner court yard, there is an altogether different atmosphere. Here the children work, read, talk and tell stories; even the piano, which is housed in the common room, is closed now so as not to disturb the readers in the library.

As soon as the playground opens the play leaders of the various "corners" assemble. They are responsible for the smooth operation of their particular sections. Each one comes with his key in his pocket, very conscious of his responsibility. Here is the librarian, a boy of about 14; he brings with him 30 new books which were purchased with the proceeds of the last Chanuka party. Immediately 15 or 20 children enter and are soon engrossed in marvelous adventures. But now the librarian is confronted with a new problem: There are many torn books which need binding, and he thinks that bookbinding should be taken up at the playground. He must not forget to mention it in his weekly report to the Children's Council!

About five children are engaged in fretwork, and the girl who is in charge of this "corner" is copying chess figures on to ply-wood, thus using up the bits left over from other woodwork. The chess players of the community are clamoring for the set and are urging the workers to finish quickly.

Some boys are busy in a corner preparing film advertisements. They have invented a method of washing the blank slips of films and writing on them announcements of the playground with a few caricatures at the bottom, to be shown the next day as a preface at the weekly cinema per-

formance, the great joy of all the children, and there is still such a lot to do. There are still to be prepared the notices of the Purim carnival, of the sports day and of the forthcoming excursion in which must appear mention of all the articles which have to be brought, even the bits of wood which each must bring for the bonfire and the potatoes to be baked on it.

Here comes the girl who supervises the meteorological station with the weather chart of previous months in her hands: "Who wants to help me with the weather diagrams?"

In one of the rooms furthest away, a group is rehearsing a playlet which is being prepared for the Purim Carnival. This is as yet a secret, and all rehearsals must take place behind closed doors to make it a real surprise.

The treasurer, a boy of about 15, arrives late, as he is busy preparing for examinations and can spare only a quarter of an hour at the playground to attend to his most urgent duties. The boy who is responsible for the garden is already waiting for him, as he has ordered special cans for the younger children and must pay a deposit on them.

Five o'clock is drawing near. A group of girls led by a young seminary student is returning from an outing in the fields. They have brought back with them quantities of wild flowers which they are putting into gay vases, jam jars covered with raffia, which they have made.

At five o'clock the whistle of the chief leader is heard, and all hurry to the circle around the giant stride pole. Remarks are heard from the children on the happenings of the day; the program for the next day is briefly sketched and all disperse repeating the playground motto, *Pe'al U'Smach*—"Be active and happy." It is still winter time and the days are short. So the little ones are sent home—which is not an easy task, especially as they know that the bigger ones are remaining for another hour.

Talking Things Over

The playground gradually becomes deserted, the groups of older children going into the building. But suddenly more little heads of young children peep out of a corner; they were in one of the rooms with their leader having a long talk. They were listening to the story of a girl who told lies, and then they began to confess their own little lies and sins. At the end they all pronounced a solemn oath never, never again to tell

lies. They had been so deeply engrossed in their conversation that they did not hear the whistle and so missed the circle.

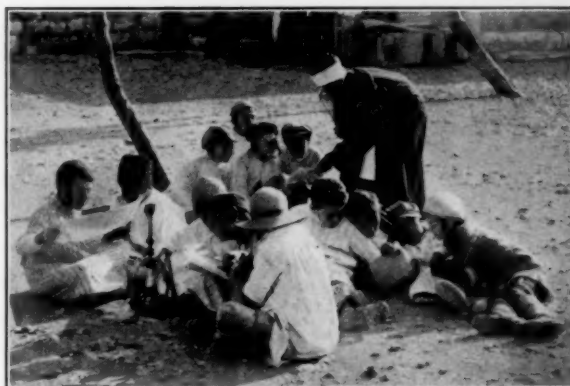
The day's last hour is devoted to group work, conversations and discussions. Two groups of boys in their teens join in a discussion on what they wish to become when they grow up. Everybody has his own plan; he will be a doctor, a gardener or a soldier. David says: "I want to be Achad Ha-am" (one of the people)—the pseudonym of the well-known Jewish philosopher. David is a very interesting boy, full of initiative and ambition, and when he says a thing he really means it. He is 12 years of age and belongs to a poor family. He is in a class of about 60 boys where he is unable to express anything apart from the lessons; but at the playground he has found an opportunity for self-expression. He does all the letter writing for his group, although he does not always sign the letters.

The groups of older children are gathered in another room. The talk on electricity is finished, and a discussion on the duties of the bigger children in the playground has begun. Every member of the groups has submitted in writing problems which interest him or her most, so that here we have a file full of various problems—scientific and social—which are to be threshed out by the group during the year.

It is already 6 o'clock—time to go home. One girl who can sing well has brought a new song and sings it to the group. We remain a little longer as there is really no wish to part. The girl goes to the piano and all listen quietly in the dusk; from somewhere in a corner a second voice is heard gently accompanying hers.

Our day is short, especially now in the winter season, but it is full of events and action and happiness, as our motto suggests.

NOTE: This account of the activities on one of the Guggenheimer playgrounds in Palestine will be of special interest to those who knew the late Mrs. Bertha Guggenheimer, an honorary member of the National Recreation Association and a devoted friend of the movement, who provided in her will for the maintenance of the playgrounds in Palestine, of which there are now three year-round and four summer centers. These playgrounds are located in the congested districts. They are open to Jew and Arab alike, and the oldest of the playgrounds, Zion Hill playground, established in 1925, and situated in a section of Jerusalem with a large Arab population, shows



AT THE JERUSALEM PLAYGROUND

a larger percentage of Arab children attending than Jewish. The Mahneh Yehudah playground, with which this article is concerned, is also situated in Jerusalem. The children come from neighboring sections, the poverty of which can be gauged by the name of one, Bute-el-Tenak (Houses of Tin). In this section houses are actually constructed of discarded Standard Oil cans. The average daily attendance at this playground is 500. Another playground is in Tel Aviv, a suburb of Jaffa, and of the four summer playgrounds, two are in Jerusalem, one in Tiberius and one in Safed.

The indebtedness of the Guggenheimer Playground Association to the National Recreation Association is gratefully acknowledged.

"We recognize nowadays how unwise it is to let the love of physical activity vanish. Through engaging in sports we not only get the immediate joy of physical exertion and the companionship of the game, but we get the habit of treating our serious occupations as forms of play, we learn to forget ourselves in our activity, whether physical or mental. It is not merely that golf or horseback riding or tabloid-like setting-up exercises may be good for our health. The important thing is that to lose the capacity for playing, for irresponsible competition, is to lose much of the joy in existence. This is the reason for the endless ways in which men try to keep in later life a youthful delight in physical exertion."—John Shapley in *Journal of Adult Education*.



WILD FOWL REFUGE, CLEVELAND PARK, SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Public Recreation in a City of the Old South

PAULINE WITHERSPOON

Superintendent of Parks, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Few of the citizens of Spartanburg, South Carolina, have any realization of the good fortune the town enjoys in its recreation system. When its population was still less than 25,000, a distinguished citizen gave to the city, in memory of his father, a beautiful tract of land, forty acres of an original grant of 528 acres made to his family in 1825. A little later another tract of 126 acres was presented by the heirs of one of the old families of the county in memory of their father. These two tracts, lying at opposite corners of the city, each partly in, but for the most part out of, the city limits, have been laid out most happily by engineers who appreciate natural beauty and fine old trees.

Spartanburg's Recreation Parks

Cleveland Park, at the northwestern limit of the city, with its forty acres of rolling land, its pine woods and its three streams, has been made into a recreation park with a zoo, swimming pool, artificial lake for boating and fishing, dance hall, tennis courts, picnic grounds and gardens. This park has a garden area of about twelve acres, within which is to be developed a municipal rose garden, the only one in this section of the country. The other park, at the southeastern limit of the city, has a hilly contour and an older and more extensive forest. Along the banks of the streams the original pines, oaks and laurel flourish in abundance and the scenery is that of the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains. The roads have been laid out along the stream and around the park in such a way that one can drive for three miles through the woods without leaving the boundaries of Duncan Park. There are four small streams running together in the valley, so situated that a narrow dam will confine enough water for a picturesque lake where fishing and canoeing under the overlapping trees will furnish recreation for many.

A municipal athletic field has already been constructed with a stadium seating 2,500 people at a

cost of \$41,000. There are two local amateur baseball leagues, one from city business houses and the other from cotton mill villages, both of which have played on this field from time to time. The athletic field has a very beautiful setting which will make it useful for pageants and municipal celebrations. When Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, Baseball Commissioner, was here, he spoke of its unusual background of old pines and cedars with rolling country in the distance and stated that it was restful to him to see baseball played amid such beauty instead of in the usual city lot surrounded by a wooden fence.

Duncan Park has room for a nine hole golf course, the construction of which is agitated at intervals. It is possible that such a course will materialize and it is also possible that additional land adjoining Duncan Park will be donated so that an eighteen hole course may be constructed.

The Airport

It takes a stretch of the imagination to include an airport in a recreation system, but all over this country park funds are being expended on airports, and this has happened in Spartanburg. Park men are divided on the question of whether the maintenance of an airport should come out of the park income, but it seems pretty well agreed at the present time that at least the landscaping, and care of the airport should be placed under the park department, as that arm of the city government is best equipped to make and keep it presentable. The Spartanburg Airport was purchased out of park funds two years ago at the time when Spartanburg was made a port of the U. S. Air Mail Service. This airport is dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of Spartanburg county, both white and colored, who gave their lives in the world war. A monument with a bronze plate listing the names of these men was dedicated by the American Legion at the opening of the airport.

The Bathing Beach and Playgrounds

Spartanburg's newest recreation venture is the municipal bathing beach at the Pacolet river plant of the municipal waterworks, donated to the public out of the earnings. An artificial lake, a gem from a landscape point of view, has been made by two dams across a crescent shaped valley, between hillsides covered to the water's edge with pine, dogwood, laurel and ferns. The lake, three acres in extent, holds 60,000,000 gallons of filtered water and serves as the emergency reserve of the filter plant. In case of devastating fire, it could be flooded into the mains. It served 125,000 people last summer in its three months' existence. The engineer of the plant as well as the superintendent of the commission is vitally interested in giving the best of recreation and environment to the public. They are also keenly alive to the natural beauty of the place and are doing everything possible to preserve it and add to it in a natural way. The bath houses, of native stone, are entirely unobtrusive. When completed the plantings will hide any scars left by the construction work and the whole will be a pleasure to the eye of the "passive re-creator" as well as to the senses of the more vigorous swimmer and picnicker.

The playgrounds of Spartanburg are in charge of the Recreation Committee of the Woman's Club with a trained supervisor in charge. An annual grant of \$4,500 out of park funds is given to this committee to expend on equipment and supervision. There are nine playgrounds, seven white and two colored, only one of which belongs to the city, the others having been loaned by the property owners to the Recreation Committee of the Woman's Club, which grew out of War Camp Community Service and which devoted the surplus funds of that organization to starting the playgrounds in 1919. The erection of equipment and maintenance of playgrounds are handled by the city engineer and charged to the park department in addition to the regular grant. At present the equipment consists of swings and slides and similar apparatus. There are two tennis courts on the playgrounds and a baseball field. Swimming is taught to children from the playgrounds twice a week during the summer at the Cleveland Park pool, and last year a swimming carnival was held.

The annual report of the Recreation Committee of the Woman's Club lists the following ac-

tivities on the playgrounds: baseball, football, basketball, tennis handcraft, roller skating, folk dancing, storytelling, dramatics, marble tournaments, hikes, picnics, horseshoe pitching, croquet, dodge ball, bat ball, kick ball, volley ball and mass games. Four of the playgrounds are kept open each afternoon in the year, while the other five are open every afternoon of the summer months and several afternoons during the winter. There are no playgrounds in connection with the schools of Spartanburg as far as equipment and supervision are concerned, though there are spaces around the school buildings in which the children play.

Except for the two colored playgrounds provided by the Woman's Club there is no provision for colored recreation in Spartanburg. A movement is now on foot in the Colored Civic Club to try to secure the funds to purchase a tract of land and present it to the city for the perpetual use of colored people as a play space, with the hope that it will be laid out and equipped from park funds in the same way as Duncan and Cleveland Parks have been donated and equipped for the use of white residents of Spartanburg. The population of Spartanburg is one-third Negro so there is much need for recreation spaces for them.

The two playgrounds for colored children are directed by school teachers who are devoted leaders of their race. From this beginning will doubtless grow further opportunities for colored children. The seven white playgrounds are supervised by locally trained young women. There is a weekly staff meeting and last year a play institute was held in June when training was given in organization and administration, storytelling, dramatics, nature work, hand work, games and folk dancing.

A Notable Music Festival

Each spring the Spartanburg Music Festival attracts thousands to its famous three day program which includes a children's chorus of five hundred voices drawn from the public schools and exquisitely trained. The Choral Society of Spartanburg, two hundred and fifty men and women reinforced by the greatest artists of America and Europe, the Spartanburg Male Chorus of seventy-five voices, accompanied by a Symphony orchestra from the east and several soloists compose a

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Drama Notes

Puppetry in Spokane, Washington

Puppetry has had three successful seasons on the playgrounds conducted by the Board of Park Commissioners of Spokane, according to an article entitled *The Puppet Show in the Summer Playground*, appearing in the June issue of *American Childhood*. Each season more than 200 shows, now daily occurrences on the playground, have been given. The first year the children carved the puppets out of wood with jack knives. Later plastic wood was substituted. At the beginning the theatre was merely an enclosed box-like affair around which a canvas-covered frame was erected to hide the puppeteers. This was later replaced by a theatre of beaver board, the front of which was 8 feet high and 6 feet wide, with the stage opening 2 feet above the ground, 30 inches wide and 18 inches high. A portable stage floor fits up to this opening and carries scenery and properties.

The beaver-board front is in three sections which hinge and fold. Folding beaver board encloses a 6-foot by 6-foot space for the players. Five of these theatres can be carried on the Department's Ford truck, and it is possible to set them up in 15 minutes.

Yearly contests and exhibits arouse much interest. In 1929 there were two such public exhibitions, one in the nature of an ensemble with eight puppet theatres erected in corners of the Grove, all eight performances going on at the same time. For the other exhibit one theatre was erected in an opening of the Park Department's eight-sided bandstand. Each playground brought only its scenery and took turns in putting on its performances. Eleven hundred spectators came to watch the children.

The children themselves have written some of the plays, and boys and girls are appointed to serve on various committees, such as stage, decorating, construction and costume committees, which arrange for the exhibitions. Frequently a playground group will load its show into an automobile and visit some of the other playgrounds to give performances; or they may go to a children's institution to pay a visit.

One of the most interesting phases of the puppet work on the Spokane playgrounds has been

the incentive to build puppet shows for home use. There are several such groups at each playground. The art class at one of the high schools made a puppet theatre their special study for an entire semester and produced remarkably fine equipment. The class has given several performances in the auditoriums of the grade schools.



Redlands, California, has a beautiful outdoor theatre, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence G. White. The seating capacity of the theatre, which cost \$36,000, is about 6,000.

Playground Dramatics in Elmira

The program of playground dramatics in Elmira, New York, began with puppetry. Such plays as *Red Riding Hood*, the *Three Bears*, the *Three Wishes* and *Jack and the Bean Stalk*, were given in a Tom Thumb theatre, built by the boys in the handcraft clubs. Puppets and scenery were made by the children of the playground. From this beginning came story dramatization and the production of short health plays. The program has now grown to such an extent that the city playgrounds joined hands in organizing and presenting worth-while plays. At the final event, given at the end of last season, the children produced *Midsummer Night's Dream*, each playground contributing its part with the result that the young participants, 125 in number, came from all corners of the city. To acquaint the children with the story and aid them in a clear understanding of the play, the Drama Tournament last summer consisted of scenes taken

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A Pageant, or a Circus—Which Shall It Be?

While the circus has gained a high degree of popularity as the culminating event of the summer playground season, it has not entirely supplanted the pageant. August has always been a month of playground pageants, and this year was no exception to the rule.

Pageants on the Playground

"The Development of Play in America" was the theme of the pageant presented on August 9th by the Bureau of Recreation of Philadelphia.

About 2,000 children took part in the four-period episodes, depicting the growth of sports from the crude play of the primitive Indian to the highly organized games of modern times. Special emphasis was placed on the part now taken by girls in outdoor activities. All of the costumes, tom-toms, flowers, model airplanes, kites, wigwams and other properties used were made by the children at the recreation centers. Music was furnished by the Philadelphia Bureau of Music.

The children of the playgrounds conducted by the Division of Recreation of Louisville gave two pageants—"The Magic Brass Bottle—an Arabian Night's Tale," by Marion Lawrence Nelson, presented by the six colored playgrounds of the city, and "Rip Van Winkle," an adaptation of Washington Irving's story which introduced a number of delightful dances. One of the city's industrial bands provided music.

In Santa Ana, California, playground children presented this year the "Pageant of Sports," designed to show the play activities of various nations. Each playground demonstrated the games of one country. There were games and sports from Greece and Rome, Japan and China, Germany, Norway and Sweden and Great Britain. Indian games were shown as well as the games which playground children all over America are playing. Contests in chariot making added to the interest.

The Pollard Drama League, a group of colored citizens, organized by the Department of Recreation of York, Pennsylvania, presented an out-of-door pageant, "Rip Van Winkle." About a hundred adults and children were in the cast.

"The Sandman's Children" was the name given the festival presented by the children of the mu-

nicipal playgrounds conducted by the Division of Recreation, Department of Parks and Public Property, Cleveland, Ohio. The festival was in the nature of a demonstration of folk dances, games, music and other activities of the playgrounds, with interest added by the introduction of the Sandman, Wynken, Blynken and Nod and similar characters. The festival was preceded by a story-telling hour and by dramatizations.

The Circus Comes Into Its Own

The circus had its lure last summer for many communities, and the introduction of the Traveling Circus Wagon added greatly to the joy of the children in planning for one of these thrilling events.

A county circus, in which the playgrounds of nine communities took part, was the record made by the Union County, New Jersey, Park Commission in the circus held on August 15th. At 7:30 the side shows with a number of exhibitions "never seen before" opened. At 8 o'clock came the grand parade of animals and performers who marched around the field in full view of the thousands of spectators. Then followed the acts, including a western drama, in which a stage coach was held up in true western style. Loud speakers were provided to amplify the entire area and carry the ring master's voice to all parts of the field.

Practically every section of Los Angeles was visited last summer by the traveling circus provided by the Playground and Recreation Department with the aid of which playground children put on their own "big-top" show. Big striped tents, stuffed burlap animals, sawdust rings and all the other paraphernalia of a three-ring circus packed in a huge painted band wagon were sent from one playground to another.

The Department of Recreation of Lima, Ohio, at the close of the summer playground season on August 15th held a circus for which each of the nine playgrounds furnished one side-show freak and a booth. Each playground was also responsible for a number of acts. For the parade the Department suggested that every playground provide at least one side-show freak and a poster advertising it which might be carried in the parade. "Horses, ponies and donkeys should be ridden in the parade with their riders appropri-

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Marble Golf



A TENSE MOMENT IN THE MARBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT IN PHILADELPHIA. THOSE AWAITING THEIR TURNS ARE "ALL SET"!

Marble golf has captured the imagination of the children of Philadelphia served by the Playgrounds Association. Requiring no expensive equipment, it is proving an ideal game for playgrounds, backyards and vacant lots. "Trick holes, sand traps, water hazards, mechanical shots including the use of the old fashioned sling shots, rolling greens, 2" water pipes and small flower pots for cups—stove pipe and what have you—and some things that you haven't—are to be found around these courses." One Lilliputian course has been built on a plot 10 feet by 20. Starting in one corner the first hole consists of a pipe embedded in a mound

of sod through which the marbles must be shot. The second hole is surrounded by several circular ridges. The third hole must be reached over a sunken basin of water, while the fourth is hidden by a sand trap almost 6 inches high. The marble is poised in a cup nailed upon a rod almost a foot high having a string attached to the base. The rod is pulled back and then released. Wire grating bars the way to the fifth hole and the sixth hole is guarded by several metal strips planted upright in the ground. Material for building the courses may be found on any junk pile and tin cans make the best holes imaginable.

Recreation in Germany

Writing of the recreation facilities of Germany, Gustavus T. Kirby, treasurer of the National Recreation Association, says:

"While in Berlin, I visited numerous playgrounds, gymnasia, outdoor and indoor swimming baths, stadia and other recreation grounds. Never have I seen any better, or for that matter as well laid out, equipped and supervised, and even more important than this, never have I seen boys and girls happier or more physically fit or taking more joy and pleasure in their exercise and play.

"The playgrounds as a rule are of sufficient acreage to have within one area the ideals which we have so often pointed out, for they are beautiful, not merely bare patches of ground but with a planting of shrubs and flowers. Trees of great size are preserved, and everything is done to appeal to the aesthetic and artistic as well as the athletic interests. There is generally a running track of 400 metres in circumference enclosing a lawn for football and other games and in fields contiguous to them, lawns and dirt areas for similar and other games. There is always a suitable building with dressing quarters, adequate showers and comfort rooms, and the location of these fields is such that they can be reached by an easy walk of five or ten minutes from the schools whose children they serve. The leadership is given by the school teachers who accompany the children in groups to the playgrounds.

"Many of the games played are familiar to us; some, however, were games new to me. Of course, football—soccer or association—is the popular game with the boys. A great deal of field handball is played and also a game something like our old-fashioned One-O-Cat, called Schlag Ball (Tag Ball) volley ball, some basketball, a considerable amount of rhythmic dancing, and a great deal of running and jumping both on the part of the girls and the boys.

"Tennis and golf are not played by nearly as large a number of people as play them in our country, though the Germans would like very much to have all play tennis as they consider the running, jumping, stooping and quick change of position in tennis the very best kind of exercise for both boys and girls. The difficulty is one of money, for both tennis and golf require consider-

able areas for the games themselves and an expenditure beyond that which the German child can make for equipment.

"Swimming is exceedingly popular and the new swimming bath is the finest I have ever seen.

"One most important matter to which the Germans are giving great attention is that of exercise in the open air, and especially in the sunshine, with as little clothing on as modesty will permit. To carry still further into practice this beneficial effect of the sun, most of the gymnasia and swimming baths, both outdoors and indoors, have sun roofs where one can take a sun bath without clothing of any kind.

"There is no gainsaying the fact that the boys and girls and youth of Germany are today to a large extent well developed and bronzed and more nearly approach the old Greek ideal than I have personally seen elsewhere outside of the athletes who have come to the intercollegiate games from California.

"The fundamental ideas and ideals behind this German movement seems to me to be the exercise of the masses and the production of the old Greek ideal rather than merely the provision of huge stadia for hundreds of thousands of spectators few of whom have either the desire or opportunity to do more than applaud the gladiatorial contests put on for them by the favored few.

"On the subject of finance my inquiries brought to light the fact that the income from recreation activities is credited to the activity which produces it, and does not, as with us, go into the general fund. In this way the Germans are enabled to know more exactly than do we just how much of their recreational activities is being paid for through general taxation and how much from the income of the enterprise.

"As an indication of what German youth is doing, I mention three demonstrations witnessed by the delegates from all over the world to the Olympic Congress:

"A. *Rowing* by girls and boys and men and women of all ages from 16 to 76—over 600 crews and 3,000 rowers. In Germany, for racing and exercising purposes, there are available shells, barges and boats numbering over 11,000. There are over 1,000 rowing clubs, with 40,000 active

(Continued on page 413)

Among the Conventions

Each year the National Conference on State Parks brings together a rather unusual group. From the beginning Stephen Mather had been a leader up to the time of his death. At the meeting at Linville, North Carolina, June 17-20, Hon. John Barton Payne, Chairman of the American Red Cross, was elected Chairman of the Conference to succeed Stephen Mather.

The conference delegates motored hundreds of miles through the most beautiful country in western North Carolina viewing some of the mountain peaks and streams which it is hoped will later be incorporated into Linville State Park. It is understood that a bill will be introduced at the next session of the North Carolina General Assembly to provide for the establishment of this Linville State Park. The next session in 1931 will be held in Missouri in the Ozark Mountains.

Mr. Arno B. Cammerer, Associate Director of the National Park Service, opposed national aid in the purchase of state parks believing it would gradually break down state independence. The Conference itself went on record as favoring a policy whereby the national government would give aid in the establishment of state parks.

The discussion at this conference made it evident that there is a strong group of nature lovers who are devoted to the preservation of the beautiful spots in our states. It is not too much to say that there is almost a religious note in the way in which the leaders in this group speak of their campaign for the preservation of "God's Out-of-Doors."

Over 300 city planners and individuals interested in various phases of planning attended the twenty-second annual Conference on City Planning held at Denver June 23-26, 1930. A number of the delegates came from Canada, Panama and European countries. All phases of planning were discussed—the coordination of streets, parks, public buildings, zoning districts and public utilities; airports and the city plan; the planning of civic centers; problems of zoning in subdivisions and recreation planning. George R. Braden of the National Recreation Association gave a paper on Recreation Planning in Western Cities.

A number of facts of interest to recreation executives were brought out. The California legislature in 1929, according to L. Deming Til-

(Continued on page 415)

Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles of Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

The American City, August 1930

- Points of Policy of Playground and Recreation Departments
- A Year-Round Recreation Program for the City of 8,000 and Over, by Arthur P. Eckley
- The Latest Billboard Decision, by Albert S. Bard
- Sound Preparation for Recreation Programming
- The Civic Auditorium of LaPorte, Ind.
- An Extensive Outdoor Recreation Center for Day and Night Use—Miami Beach, Fla.
- Cooperation Builds Baseball Diamond—Vermilion, South Dakota
- Decatur Develops Water-Works Property as a Community Playground

Child Welfare, July-August 1930

- Wood Handicraft for Boys and Girls, by C. M. Arthur
- In our Back Yard (poem), by Harriet M. Woolslair

The Nation's Schools, August 1930

- A Modern Substitute for the Old Swimming Hole, by H. D. Mackey
- The Relative Importance of Character Traits, by John Guy Fowlkes

The Parents' Magazine, August 1930

- What Shall I Do Now? by Helen Buckler
- South Needs Red Blooded Books, by Hilda Brace Stebbins
- Swim With Your Children, by Alice Lord Landon
- Books for Boys and Girls, by Alice Dalgliesh
- Family Fun and Things for Children to Do and Make

The Parents' Magazine, September 1930

- The Child's Museum, by Mary Bronson Hartt
- Books for Boys and Girls, by Alice Dalgliesh
- Family Fun

The Survey—Midmonthly, August 1930

- A Mothers' Camp, by Agnes E. Meyer
- That Outside Activity Question, by Gilbert Harris

Parks and Recreation, July-August 1930

- The Boston Park System, by A. A. Shurcliff
- Public Golf Links, by Ganson DePew
- Basketball Tournament at Seattle, by Ben Evans
- Birmingham Women's Basket-Ball League, by R. S. Marshall

PAMPHLETS

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park, New Jersey

Fourth Annual Report of the Director of Recreation of the Village of Wilmette, Illinois

Annual Report and Review of Activities 1928-1929, Playground Commission, San Francisco, Calif.

Statistical Report of Infant Mortality for 1929, American Child Health Association

Sixth Annual Report of the Board of Public Recreation—Tampa 1929-30

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Boston

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Among Our Folks

Alfred O. Anderson, who for a number of years has served as supervisor of the Division of Community Centers and Playgrounds, Bureau of Physical Welfare, Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed director of health and physical education of the Kansas City schools to succeed Dr. Berg.

Anne F. Hodgkins, recreation director for T. Eaton and Company, the largest department store in Toronto, Canada, with 800 women employees, has been appointed to the position of field secretary for the Women's Division of the National Amateur Athletic Federation, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York.

Leroy E. Bowman of Columbia University on December 1, 1930, will become assistant director of the Welfare Federation of Cleveland, Ohio. His services will be in connection with group work conferences of the Welfare Federation.

Legislation for Adult Education

(Continued from page 383)

shall be available to all residents, native or foreign born, who are unable to attend any public day school.

A Nebraska act authorized school boards to expend money for conducting schools and classes in school buildings, industrial establishments and other places for giving instruction to foreign-born and native adults and minors over the age of sixteen. Such courses of instruction must include English, history, civics, and other subjects tending to promote good citizenship and increase national efficiency. The state superintendent of public instruction is required to designate courses of study, approve the selection of teachers, and supervise the instruction.

Rhode Island authorized the state board or local committees of any town to establish and maintain classes for persons over sixteen years of age who cannot read, write, or speak the English language; and provided that such classes may be held in homes or other suitable places.

From One Recreation Executive to Her Board

(Continued from page 394)

"In this connection do you know that Fort Worth, Waco and Austin all have a special recreation tax, and that Galveston, San Antonio, Dallas, Austin and Beaumont are all spending substantial bond issues for recreational facilities?

"Dr. C. C. Carstens of the National Child Welfare Association and of President Hoover's Commission on Child Welfare said when he was in Houston recently that 'The test of any city's social conscience is the extent of its public rather than its private human welfare work.'

"If we agree with him, isn't it time to start creating sentiment in favor of a special recreation tax and educating the public to recognize the Recreation Department as the city's legitimate child in the next bond issue? Wouldn't this be a comparatively simple matter if each of our board and committee members made himself or herself personally responsible for it?

"Isn't it also true that our allegiance to a cause is stronger when we personally give something to it; and hasn't Houston many moderately wealthy citizens who might enjoy giving to a neighborhood playground?"

"Some apparatus, a small swimming basin, some lights for night play, a shelter building.

"And haven't we other very wealthy citizens who might be inspired to give an outdoor municipal swimming pool, Houston's first playground field house, a model memorial playground or a fine athletic field?"

"This is not an unheard of procedure in other cities:

"Austin, San Antonio and Amarillo were among the cities of the United States that received gifts of recreational facilities from public-spirited citizens in 1929, and all but one of New Orleans' public swimming pools were given by New Orleans' citizens as memorials to loved ones."

"We have Houston citizens who have done other big, generous things. Is there not some one whom you can approach as to so dedicating some of his great wealth to the health and happiness of Houston's youth, not only of the present but of generations to come?"

In a City of the Old South

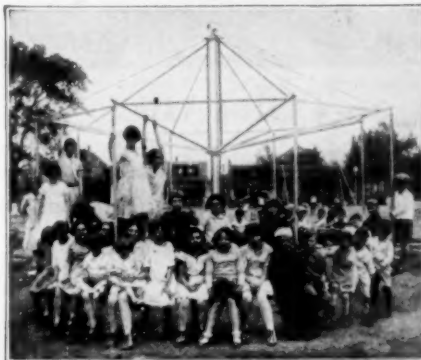
(Continued from page 404)

feast that is fast making Spartanburg a spot on the musical map. This festival is a social event of the Carolinas, bringing to Spartanburg each May a brilliant host of visitors who remain for the commencement exercises of Converse College, in whose auditorium the festival is held.

The future holds much hope for the development of a city-wide recreation system in Spartanburg. As soon as the debt for the airport has been paid, it will be possible to proceed with these plans and to pay special attention to adult recreation throughout the year. Some dozen small play parks will be needed within the city in the next ten years if the population increases as rapidly as it has in the ten in which the park and playground system has been growing up. In these spaces adequate recreation, both active and passive, must be provided for all ages, races and

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with children everywhere—big and little, boys and girls alike—are these delightful playground devices. Favorites, too, with all who are concerned with playground problems, because they are safe and trouble-free; and because their cost is so small, as compared to the number of children they entertain.



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living conditions in direct proportion to the increase in density of housing and in shortened hours of labor and the resulting increase of leisure.

Drama Notes

(Continued from page 405)

from the play. Graceful little folk dances contributed to the charm and beauty of the natural outdoor stage.

Parkersburg Holds Drama Institute

The Drama Institute, held under the auspices of the Board of Recreation of Parkersburg, in October, 1929, Charles F. Wells, of the National Recreation Association, serving as director, resulted in the creation of a permanent community drama group among the young people of the city. As another outcome a little theatre group was organized among the young people of one of the churches conducted by a member of the institute.

A Pageant or a Circus?

(Continued from page 406)

ately costumed. Old-fashioned bicycles and dilapidated Fords, painted to advertise the circus, may also be included."

An enterprising boy of Long Beach, California, after three years' work has assembled a miniature circus for a "road tour" of city playgrounds. Everything a large circus has from rolling stock to canvas has been reproduced in this "Tom Thumb" circus.

With the opening of the circus at Port Chester Recreation Park on July 31st, an entire series of Westchester County, New York, circuses began. And no little part of the success of these local circuses was due to the circus wagon, introduced by the Westchester County Recreation Commission, which, painted in brilliant colors and decorated with pictures of performing lions and elephants, toured the communities of the county carrying the properties and arousing interest in the circus. The wagon, 15 feet long, 9 feet high and 5½ feet wide, was sufficiently large to transport a portable circus ring, a barker's stand, clown suits, horse and wild animal frames, a gaily painted dragon of enormous proportions with great bulging green eyes made of painted rubber balls, a bear, an elephant, a bucking bronco and other paraphernalia. Humorous masks of animal heads and grotesque human features, costumes and animals including the decorative dragon and a peacock, were made by the playground directors in classes conducted by the handcraft section of the Westchester workshop. The local circus programs culminated in a great county wide circus held on August 28th when the star acts of the local circuses were repeated.

Recreation in Germany

(Continued from page 408)

and 50,000 supporting members. In 1929 the following races took place: 97 men's rowing regattas with 1,471 races and 4,830 boats containing 24,705 oarsmen. In addition to these adult races, there were 339 pupils' and junior regattas with 1,408 boats and 7,300 oarsmen. There were 10 regattas in which women took

(Continued on page 414)

Growth of Municipal Forest Movement

The movement for community forests, town forests and municipal forests, seems to be on the increase in this country. Massachusetts is probably the leading state in the union in respect to the number of communities which own forests. A recent report indicates that eighty towns have such forests totalling 10,500 acres for which \$111,000 has been spent in acquisition and development. In Massachusetts in 1913 a law was passed permitting town forests and the first of these was established by Fitchburg in 1919. Minnesota passed a similar law in the same year and three communities there have pioneered in forestry.

In 1925 there were 250 municipal forests in the United States, and in 1926 the annual report of the United States Forester estimated that there were over 700,000 acres in such forests.

In New York State where the township is not so vigorous an agency of government, the movement is perhaps paralleled by the recently inaugurated County Forest Movement. The Hewitt Bill, passed by the New York State Legislature in 1929, appropriated from the state treasury funds on a dollar for dollar basis, up to \$5,000 as a maximum for any one county to those counties which would purchase county forests, as specifically authorized by the bill. Already up to this date in 1930, twenty New York counties have taken advantage of this legislation and have purchased county forests. It is expected that other counties will follow their example.

Municipal forests not only bring idle land into use and protect the city's water supply, but they have valuable recreational uses as outing places for picnics, possibly municipal tourist camps, nature study and bird and game sanctuaries. In addition, if the experience in Europe is to be repeated in this country, they can provide municipal income. Community forests in Germany, France and Switzerland which are now centuries old, have been for many years returning a profit to the communities. Already some American forests are showing profit. New Bedford, Mass., with a forest of 400 acres, Keane, N. H., and other communities are already beginning to show from \$3,000 to \$15,000 a year income from the sale of timber and other forest products. Recreation leaders should foster this movement.

LAST CALL FOR THE RECREATION CONGRESS!

The dates of the Seventeenth National Recreation Congress, October 6-11; the place, Atlantic City.

Will you be there?

Among the speakers will be Joseph Lee; Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. John S. Finley, of the New York Times; Charles W. Kennedy, chairman, Princeton Board Athletic Control; Dr. B. F. Ashe, president, University of Miami, and John Nolen, city planner.

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consist of 50, each relay to be of the distance determined by each team. In this race, 44 teams started.

"Over 5,000 men, women, boys and girls took part in the day's races, which were as follows:

25 km.—15½ miles—for teams of 50 men

15 km.—about 10 miles—for teams of 30 men or boys

10 km.—about 6⅔ miles—for teams of 25 boys and for teams of 25 girls, or mixed teams of boys and girls

"The advantage and theory of this character of relay race is that it means mass competition and not merely a few stars. Also, it means runners with different abilities and capacities. On the hills, the strong, sturdy men would be placed about 100 metres apart. On the level, a 400 or 800 metre man of a team of fewer numbers would run. Much planning and trying out before the races is always indulged in, thereby greatly adding to the interest.

"C. 'An Olympic Hour' which was given on the stage of the State Opera House and which included the following: Running by men and women; gymnastic jumps and running games; body training of men; swinging falls; push and blow; flying movements, marching and running in intricate figures; exercises by women with the 2.5 kg. weight—5.5 pounds; exercise by men with 15 kilos. weight—33.07 pounds; high jump; rope skipping by girls; gymnastic work by girls; more difficult gymnastic work by men including tumbling; eurythmic movement by girls; folk dancing by girls and boys; Pageant of Homage to the Olympic Flag and Flags of All Nations."

part, there being in all 158 boats and 46 races.

"B. Running by men and boys and girls. Relay races on the road from Potsdam to Berlin. The 'big' race was of 25km.—15½ miles, teams to

Among the Conventions

(Continued from page 409)

ton, director of planning, Santa Barbara, California, passed a new planning act making the appointment of county planning commissions mandatory, and to date 11 counties have undertaken this new task of government.

The primary function of an airport, the statement was made, is transportation, not recreation. There seemed to be no objection, however, to an airport offering some recreation facilities and service for those in transit, for the workers at a port and for those who come to witness flights. This type of recreation service should be more largely social than physical.

Jacob L. Crane, Jr., town planner of Chicago, stated that each state must describe by statute specific machinery for acquiring or reserving public land other than for street purposes, that is, for park, playground and school site, at the time when subdivision plats are laid out.

Book Reviews

THE CLARENDON SONG BOOKS. Oxford University Press, Inc., New York.

Here are six song books containing no end of delight. The thirty-one songs in Book I, twenty-seven in Book II, and about twenty in each of the others (depending on the sizes of the songs) are all fine, fit for the most cultivated taste, and yet most of them are so simple and vital as to delight anyone, young or old, whose taste has not been too jaded by the highly seasoned music of Broadway and Hollywood. There are many folk-songs, most of them from the British Isles, as everlastingly fresh as the sea breezes that have borne them from the lips of generations of Britons and Celts. A few of these have been given an additional "part" (called a descant) that makes for especially enjoyable part-singing. And there are unison and two-part songs by the best song-writers of the past and by modern composers who may also turn out to be among the best. There are also many delightful Rounds, but with a few possible exceptions, they are all too difficult to relieve "Row, row, row your boat," "Are you sleeping?" and "O, how lovely" of some of their frequent appearances. All of the songs are for treble voices. The accompaniments were designed to be simple enough for the humblest pianist, and many of them, not all, are so simple, and yet richly effective. Their refreshing imaginativeness and originality make them ideal demonstrations of the sheer delight that simple but good accompaniments can add to singing.

These books or any one of them are very valuably suited to small groups in community centers, settlements, and playgrounds, as well as in schools, and they would be ideal companions to a good piano, an open fire, and the hearts and voices of parents and children, perhaps, some neighbors in a home. Book I contains the simplest songs, but the later books also have simple ones as well as some that are more difficult. The price of each book of melodies and words, without accompaniments, is 25



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cents, and of each book containing accompaniments, \$1.50. Twenty per cent discount is given to schools and, presumably, to playgrounds and settlements and similar groups.

MUSIC AND ROMANCE FOR YOUTH. Educational Department, RCA Victor Company, Inc., Camden, New Jersey. \$2.25 with 20% discount for schools.

The Educational Department of the RCA Victor Company has made an exceedingly valuable contribution to the literature of music appreciation in the preparation of these lessons intended as a course of study in music appreciation for junior high schools and similar organizations. The purpose in working out the course has been "to relate music and its appreciation to life itself, and to set it to work as a training in wholesome use of leisure hours." The thoroughness with which the subject of music appreciation is approached, the wealth of material offered in descriptive and informational data, bibliographical material and glossary, and the profusion of attractive illustrations make this book outstanding. The volume is divided into three parts, each to be used either for one semester of the school year or to fill an entire year. Each part is in turn divided into sixteen separate chapters. A list is given of Victor records chosen for each chapter and especially adapted to illustrate the chapter topics.

HANDBOOK OF INTRAMURAL SPORTS. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The Department of Intramural Sports of the University of Michigan (Elmer D. Mitchell, director) has issued an attractive booklet telling of the organization and development of the department and the activities conducted. Calendars and schedules are presented and the rules governing competition are set forth.

GOLF GUIDE 1930. Edited by Grantland Rice, Spalding's Athletic Library No. 3x. \$35.

"The tendency," states the introduction, "seemed to be for more golf for pleasure and less for championship competition in 1929." The rules of golf are included in the booklet which contains many articles and championship records. Announcement is made of the fact that January 1, 1931, will see the adoption by the United States Golf Association of a new golf ball, lighter and larger than the one now in use.

AMERICAN GIRL. John R. Tunis. Brewer and Warren, Inc., New York. \$2.00.

John R. Tunis, sports writer for the New York Evening Post and author of many magazine articles on sports, has given us, in this novel depicting the experiences of Florence Farley and her rise as a tennis champion, some interesting side lights on the life of a champion and some of the problems involved. Although the sports interest is in the background, the book is an argument for a system of athletics which will not make victims of those who come into the lime-light.

GOOD GAMES. Jean Hosford Fretwell. Rand McNally & Company, New York. \$2.00.

Here is a delightful book which cannot fail to fascinate children and will be a boon to parents and play leaders. There are games for back yards, train and car, country and open spaces, and play streets. Suggestions for games for boys to play with their mothers, and girls with their fathers, and for playing magic and doing tricks, are added greatly to the book. The illustrations as well as the subject matter do much to promote the spirit of play. "The author," says Dr. Jesse F. Williams, Head of the Department of Physical Education of Teachers College, in his introduction, "merits not only the thanks of children for helping to enrich their play but also the praise of adults who wish children well."

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION FOR CAMP COUNSELORS. Emma Farm Association, 1835 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

For the information of counselors attending the Emma Kaufmann Camp at Harmony, Pennsylvania, maintained

by the Emma Farm Association of which Sidney A. Teller is executive director, a manual has been prepared giving detailed suggestions on equipment, the camp program, discipline and similar points. The pamphlet is so practical it will be suggestive for camp directors and counselors in general. One of the most interesting features of the manual is the suggested list of books for the counselors' book shelf.

Mr. Teller states that he will be glad to supply a copy free of charge to anyone interested in securing it.

FIBER FURNITURE WEAVING. Emil Gandre. The Bruce Publishing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. \$1.75.

Complete directions for constructing various pieces of furniture by winding and weaving fiber are to be found in this book which is divided into four parts. Part I explains the use of tools and equipment and various parts of the frame, and outlines the necessary processes in hand winding to be applied to the frame. Part II deals with the use of tools, giving the basic operations. Part III consists of typical commercial jobs with directions for construction, while Part IV contains general information about materials.

ROADSIDE DEVELOPMENT. J. M. Bennett. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$5.00.

This book, based on experiments successfully carried on in Wayne County, Michigan, presents a practical working plan for roadside development which can be followed out to a degree in almost any state or county. Detailed suggestions are given for planting and beautification, and national progress along roadside development lines is cited. The appendices contain laws relating to roadside development. Over seventy-five illustrations add greatly to the interest and the attractiveness of the book.

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